Chief Justice Davide wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Don't let sex scandals shake your faith—Pope

TORONTO—Pope John Paul II, ending World Youth Day celebrations with a big outdoor Mass on Sunday, urged a drenched but ecstatic crowd of 800,000 to stand by the Roman Catholic Church and not let priestly sex scandals shake their faith.

Many in the crowd in Downsview Park had slept all night waiting for the

DON'T/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Miss Saigon' soon to be Mrs. Chien

By Leah Salterio

AS in a romantic play, he serenaded her, got down on his knees, gave her a ring, proposed marriage—and she accepted.

Lea Salonga's Japanese-Chinese-American boyfriend Robert Chien popped the question in Los Angeles

MISS/A18

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, July 30, 2002 ★ 44 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 232 P15 website: www.inq7.net

MLSA denounced as new bases pact

Malacañang denies Imee Marcos' allegations

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE COUNTRY will most likely be turned into a jumping board for American antiterrorism operations in Asia as the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) grants permanent basing rights to the United States, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said yesterday.

Marcos said the final draft of the MLSA sought to give US forces access to all seaports and airports in the country.

In a privileged speech titled "Beware the Trojan Horse," Marcos attached what she said was the final draft of a 10-year MLSA, which is being prepared for signing in time for the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell to Manila on Aug. 3.

"First there remains uppermost, our concern that this copy of the final version of the MLSA, which is sadly all we have on hand to judge, grants permanent basing rights to the American armed forces that violate our Constitution," the daughter of the late President Ferdinand Marcos said.

But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye denied that the MLSA would grant the United States basing rights in the country.

Bunye also said that there was no final draft yet of the MLSA. "Although the final draft of the MLSA is not yet in, Malacañang is saying that there are no basing rights involved in it," he said.

Bunye said the MLSA was a mere "accounting" agreement that will cover, among other things, military equipment brought in by the United States and infrastructure projects built by US forces in the course of the Balikatan 02-1 exercises.

Marcos said there was more to the MLSA. "Although defined as 'support services,' there can be no doubt that 'billeting . . . medical services, use of facilities, training services, repair and maintenance services . . . port services' do not entail mere

MLSA/A16

AMERICAN and Filipino soldiers guard a steel bridge built by US servicemen and funded by the British government during its inauguration in Maluso, Basilan. DENNIS SABANGAN

IN exchange for the bridge, British Ambassador Paul Stephen Dimond gets a kris from the Maluso folk. AP

GMA tells Reds: Look who's violating rights

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said militant groups accusing the military of violating human rights in its war against the Abu Sayyaf were the ones guilty of the offense.

"I have two answers to our critics," she said in a news conference in Malacañang. "One, we will not validate your propaganda by engaging in human rights violations. Two, many of you commit human rights violations yourselves."

It was an apparent reference to the purges in the communist movement that began in the 1980s, wherein rebel leaders ordered the execution of their own comrades on suspicion of spying.

The President earlier scoffed at the claim of Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza—whom she referred to as "communists"—that

GMA/A16

Asean agrees to tone down references to sovereignty

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Southeast Asian nations have agreed to a US proposal to tone down references to sovereignty in an anti-terrorism treaty, allowing the United States to more actively pursue al-Qaida-linked extremists throughout the region.

Southeast Asia has often been described as the "second front" of the international war on terror, after Afghanistan.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and US Secretary of State Colin Powell will sign the treaty during the Asean Regional Forum, which begins here tomorrow. The ARF is the Asia-Pacific region's largest annual security meeting.

The accord would increase US technical and financial aid against terrorism, increase sharing of intelligence information and build closer ties between law enforcement agencies in each nation.

It originally stipulated that Washington would act in accordance with "the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and . . . non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other states." Over the weekend, a senior Asian diplomat said on condition of anonymity that the United States had objected to the provision.

The new wording, changed at Washington's request, says only that it "re-

ASEAN/A16

Gov't to use stick on anti-Powell demonstrators

By Carlito Pablo, Christine Herrera and Julie Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

IN AN ATTEMPT to tame the political storm gathering over US Secretary of State Colin Powell's weekend visit, the Macapagal administration's "strong republic" flexed its muscles yesterday: It said it would not hesitate to get tough on unruly demonstrators.

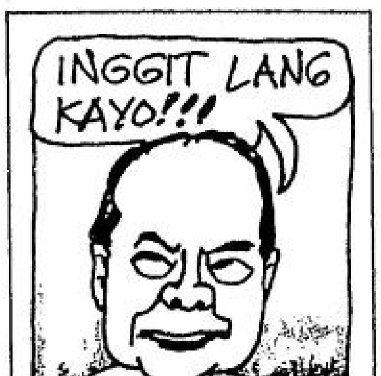
Powell's visit comes a week after militant legislators claimed an American soldier shot a Filipino civilian in Basilan, a charge the US Embassy yesterday vigorously denied.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President's suspension of the policy of maximum tolerance would be put to the test starting this Friday against militant groups involved in violent protest actions.

"The President has already enunciated that the policy of maximum tolerance is suspended," Bunye said in a press briefing. Bunye's advice to militants: "They should observe maximum tolerable behavior."

The test may actually come earlier, not in the National Capital Region but in Zamboanga City. Last night, tension ran high in the city—the main host to American troops taking part in the Balikatan 02-1 exercises, which end tomorrow—as pro- and anti-US demonstrators continued to

GOV'T/A16



INGGIT LANG KAYO!!!

Blas turns ballistic in valedictory

By Cynthia D. Balana

CALL him Jean Valjean to Amando Doronila's Inspector Javert.

Blas Ople yesterday bade goodbye to the

BLAS/A18

I'll never give in to pressure, says Alvarez

By Jerry Esplanada

ONE is a "first-class influence peddler," another's "into blackmail of the foulest sort."

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, in an interview with the INQUIRER, was referring to Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay and Teodoro Bernardino, president of Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines Resources Inc. (Picop).

Alvarez said Pichay and Bernardino were among "very powerful vested interests who are at work against me and my confirmation" by the Commission on Appointments.

The environment secretary was among several presidential appointees who failed to get the nod of the commission before Congress adjourned last month.

But Alvarez said he would "never give in to intense pressures exerted by prominent politicians and businessmen, like Congressman Pichay and Mr. Bernardino."

At the same time, Alvarez said Malacañang had assured him of his reappointment.

"I was told by (Executive) Secretary Alberto Romulo that my original papers, including my reappointment (as environment secretary) will be for-

I'LL NEVER/A17

Davide wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

A FILIPINO chief justice, a Pakistani nun, a Burmese doctor, a Nepalese journalist, a South Korean Buddhist monk and an Indian activist were named yesterday winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide won the prize for government service for his "life of principled citizenship in profound service to democracy and the rule of law in the Philippines."

It was Davide who presided over the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada. For presiding over the trial, he was named INQUIRER "Man of the Year" for 2000.

Davide, former chair of the Commission on Elections and member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, swore in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the 14th President of the Philippines after a four-day people power toppled Estrada.

"The child of a mountain barrio in Cebu province, Davide walked barefoot to school as a boy and worked his way through the University of the Philippines, passing the bar in 1959," the awards committee said.

He "is known to lead by example, keeping up earnestly with his own heavy workload and living modestly. Looking ahead, he says he will 'leave politics to the politicians,' and devote himself to judicial reform. About this work, his feelings run deep. As he says, 'administering justice is a sacramental task,'" the committee said.

Ruth Pfau, a Catholic nun, born in Germany, was given the

DAVIDE/A16

DAVIDE: Administering justice is a sacramental task.

MAHOHULI KAYA YAN?

Second FRONT PAGE

Marohombsar: He blew it!

By Carlito Pablo

"HE blew it."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said alleged Pentagon gang leader Faizal Marohombsar was now the subject of a renewed manhunt.

"He was given reasonable time to surrender," Bunye said on television.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced Marohombsar's supposed capture last Friday in Sarangani, only to retract it minutes later.

This embarrassment swiftly resulted in an ultimatum for the fugitive, who had been negotiating with authorities for his surrender.

Marohombsar was arrested in Quiapo, Manila, last February, but escaped from his detention cell in Camp Crame on June 19.

After Ms Macapagal reported last week that he was already "in the custody of the authorities," Marohombsar had himself interviewed on radio, to deny that he had been captured.

Bunye said Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns, had called off negotiations with Marohombsar and that "renewed pursuit operations" were ongoing.

Gonzales reportedly balked at the escapee's "unreasonable and impossible demands."

One of these was that Marohombsar would surrender only to the President. Another was that he be made state witness against his Pentagon associates.

"A state witness is supposed to be the least guilty among the accused," Bunye explained.

The Pentagon gang is being held responsible for a series of kidnappings of foreigners and wealthy businessmen in Central Mindanao.

Bunye said the government could guarantee Marohombsar safety and due process, "only if he turns himself in."

Retraction getting to be a bad Palace habit

By Dona Pazzibugan

LIGHTNING does strike twice, it turns out, if the target is big enough. Like Malacañang.

For the second time in just four days, the Palace had to retract a statement it was set to give about the capture of a top fugitive.

Last Friday in Sarangani, President Macapagal-Arroyo was forced to retract, within minutes, her announcement that escaped Pentagon kidnap leader Faizal Marohombsar had been captured.

Again, around 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Malacañang hastily called a news conference where the President would present a "captured" Abu Sayyaf leader.

Mediamen covering the Palace had earlier been led to believe it would be Isnilon Hapilon, one of the five Abus in the United States' wanted list.

Instead of Hapilon, the military brought alleged Abu Sayyaf member Yusop Ibrahim at around 10 a.m. Copies of the President's statement on Ibrahim's arrest were then handed out to reporters.

But at the last minute and for no apparent reason, the news conference was canceled. Reporters were intercepted on their way out because Palace press aides had to take back the news releases.

Once again, Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco, who figured in the President's embarrassing gaffe last week over Marohombsar, took the blame.

Capco insisted he had received word from the military that Hapilon had been captured, and that he would be presented to the President.

"That's what I was told yesterday (Sunday) by military officials involved in the operation," he told radio dzMM.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina denied this.

"That report didn't come from us," he said in a chance interview in Malacañang yesterday. "What we can tell you is, we continue to hunt down Hapilon after we got (Abu) Sabaya."

Carolina also said the military now knew the "general whereabouts" of the remaining top leaders of the bandit group. "That is good enough," Carolina said.

Asked if they were close to ensnaring the prey, Carolina replied, "I feel so, I feel so."

Capco said the news conference was canceled because information had to be verified, and that giving an announcement "at this time" would prejudice ongoing military operations.

12 killed after bus slams into jeepney

By V. Visaya Jr.
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, Isabela—At least 12 people, most of them students, were killed yesterday when a Cagayan-bound bus slammed into a passenger jeepney along the national highway here, police said.

The fatalities were all passengers of the jeepney bound for Barangay Guibang in nearby Gamu town.

Police said an Auto Bus, which came from Metro Manila, was cruising along the national highway in Sitio Polipol in Baligatan, about 7 km south of Ilagan town proper, when it collided with the jeepney at about 4 p.m.

The jeepney was carrying more than 20 passengers, mostly students on their way home, police said.

Police have identified only seven of the fatalities: Fe Estrella Preciado, Sebastian Guarin, John Paul Cambri, Roger Macadangdang Jr., Francisco Sta. Maria, Ferdinand Duran, and Marites Ruizo. Their bodies were taken to the Ramos Funeral Parlor here.

Many of the injured were taken to the Isabela Provincial Hospital here.

Ambassador to Baghdad electrocuted

AMBASSADOR Ernesto Castro died on Saturday after he was electrocuted while taking a shower inside his home in San Fernando City in La Union, according to a police report.

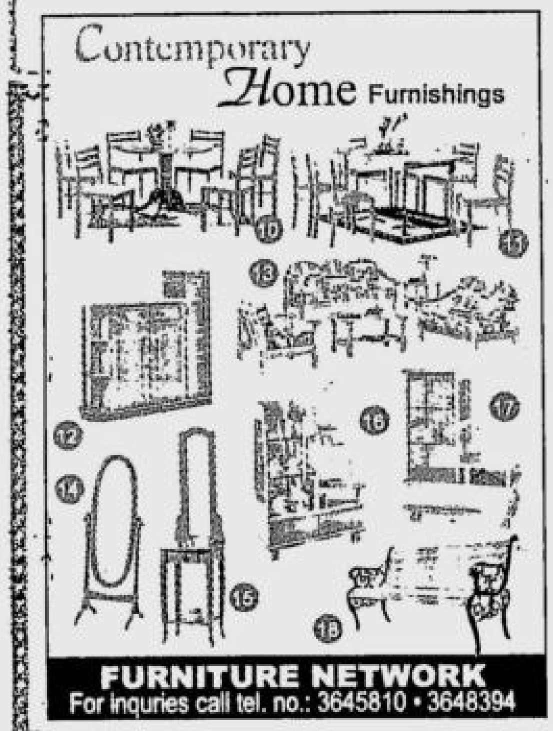
Castro, 52, the country's ambassador to Iraq, was electrocuted while using a telephone shower connected to a hot shower system inside his home at No. 2 Beach Home III in Lingsat at around 3:30 p.m.

The ambassador cried for help, sending his wife Zenaida and nephew Zenon Malaga to rush to the bathroom and turn off the shower system. Castro was taken to the Lorma Medical Center but was declared dead on arrival.

Police investigators were puzzled by the incident because Castro's wife had earlier taken a bath using the same telephone shower.

Castro's brother, retired Army Col. Nestor Castro, reported the incident to the police.

The remains of Castro, former deputy chief of mission to Tokyo, lie in state at the Joces Funeral Parlor in Bauang, La Union. *TJ Burgonio*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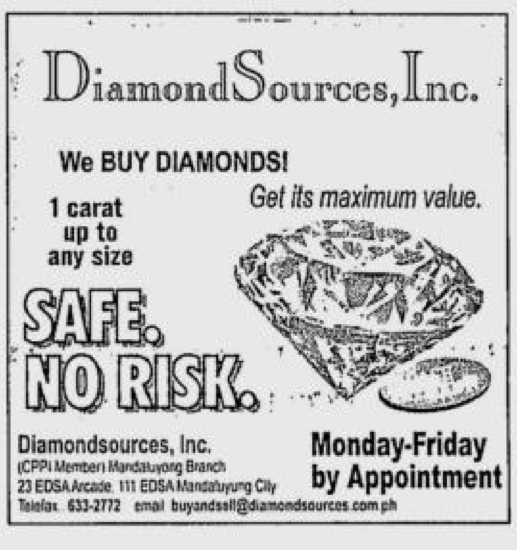
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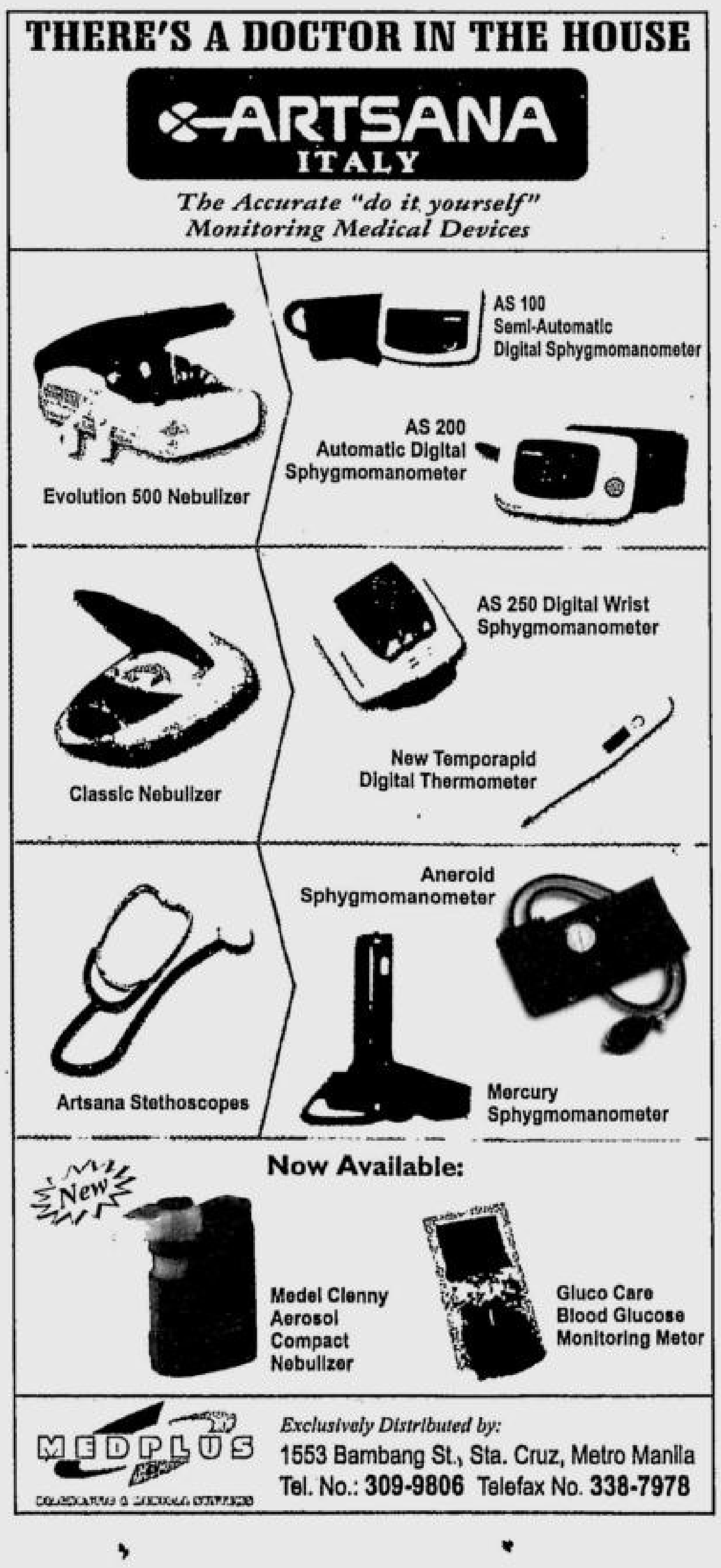
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Big industrial power users get 25-percent discounts

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday unveiled the first of her 10-point plan to reduce power rates, which she promised earlier this month.

Starting next month, big industrial power users in Metro Manila and nearby provinces can get a 25-percent discount on their power rates if they exceed their normal power consumption.

Ms Macapagal unveiled the plan before representatives of the National Power Corp., Manila Electric Co., Department of Energy, Department of Trade and Industry and business leaders in Malacañang yesterday.

"It is a win-win solution for Meralco, Napocor, for industrial users and for our jobseekers," she said.

"I ask the industries to respond and expand your economic activities because with this discount the greater your volume, the lower your unit cost, the more competitive you will be.

"And we will be happy because the more jobs you will create," the President added.

Under the program called Special Program to Enhance Electricity Demand (SPEED), a 25-percent discount will be applied on the power consumed above its customer base line (CBL).

Meralco and Napocor will give a fixed discount of P0.92 and P0.80 per kilowatt hour, respectively, for a minimum period of one month and a maximum of 24 months.

SPEED will be implemented in three phases.

The first phase allows some 219 large industrial power consumers using a minimum of 1,000 kw to avail of the discount starting next month.

The second phase allows another 437 industrial consumers using a minimum of 500 kw to be included in October.

The third phase includes 259 commercial consumers, like shopping malls, in the program.

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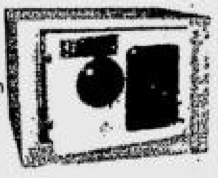

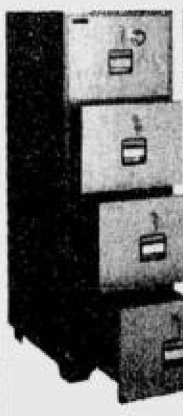

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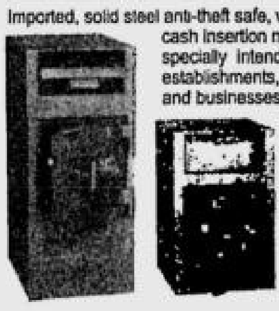

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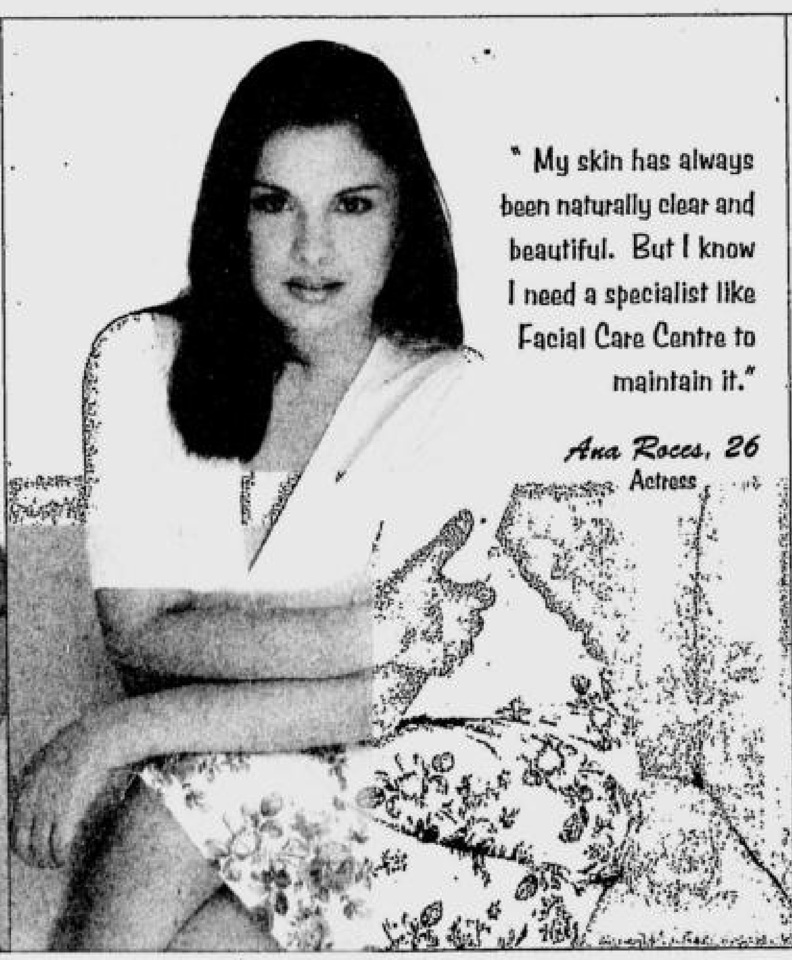

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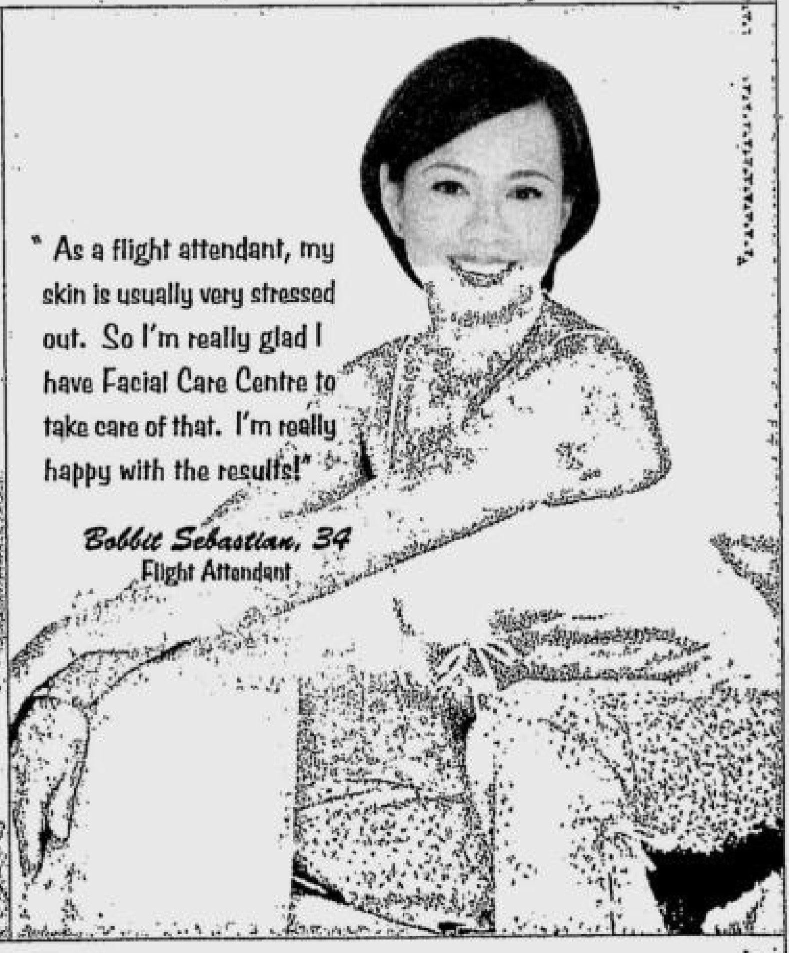

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Chavit finishes testimony vs Erap

By Volt Contreras

FORMER Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday capped his direct testimony by demonstrating how P130 million in cash could have been delivered to President Joseph Estrada's Greenhills residence in August 1999.

The prosecution star witness in the plunder case against the deposed president also dragged the name of former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim into what he "understood" was a plot to kill Estrada's pal Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Government lawyers asked Singson to carry for a few paces down the courtroom's center aisle a carton box containing demonetized P1,000 bills totalling P20 million. Singson did so in less than 10 seconds and with relative ease.

Singson thus closed his narrative of how he and Ang were supposed to have brought to Estrada P130 million freshly withdrawn from LandBank's Mandaluyong branch.

The money was Estrada's alleged kickback from tobacco excise tax revenues earmarked for Ilocos Sur, where Singson used to be governor. Drawn from the provincial government's account at LandBank's Vigan branch, Singson said, the money was funneled through the accounts of three persons designated by Ang, namely Delia Rajas, Alma Alfaro and Eleuterio Tan.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, who handled Singson's direct examination, said the "demo" was meant to prove that a man could move a total of P130 million up and down a five-meter stretch in less than 10 minutes.

Marcelo further explained in an interview that such was the distance and time Ang might have covered when he made the alleged delivery from his vehicle, through the driveway, and up to Estrada's house.

The demonstration proved that P130 million could be moved in that short period if delivered in smaller portions, Marcelo said.

Defense lawyers vigorously protested this, saying Singson had never claimed personally carrying that much money all at once to Estrada's Polk Street residence.

In a statement later in the day, Estrada's spokesperson Raymund Fortun dismissed Singson's "theatric" and questioned the "cooperation" extended by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in Estrada's prosecution by providing the demonetized bills.

Before moving to the tax scam, Singson pointed to the alleged plot to kill Ang. Then Secretary Lim, he said, implored him to settle his rift with Estrada and "just pin all the blame on Ang" if he could no longer be dissuaded from going to the media.

Lim, Singson claimed, made the thumbs-down sign and said "*sila na raw ang bahala* (they would take care of Ang)." He said he understood it as a plan to have Ang "killed."

With 45 minutes left before adjournment, the defense panel—particularly the lawyers of co-accused Edward Serapio—started their cross-examination.

Serapio's lead counsel Sabino Acut noted inconsistencies between Singson's testimonies in court and at the Senate impeachment trial, regarding his client's "presence" when Singson allegedly turned over P123 million in jueteng payola to Yolanda Ricaforte.

Acut also presented incorporation papers of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation in a bid to belie Singson's claim that it was a "dummy" foundation for keeping Estrada's jueteng money.

Off-court, Estrada lawyer Prospero Crescini said he was confident that Singson's "biases and fabrications" would surface on Wednesday, when he continued the cross-examination.

Crescini vowed, "He will surely lose his cool."

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Cardinal Sin to lead rites for new Ateneo church

THE ATENEO Church of the Gesu is the Ateneo community's statement of faith as a Catholic, Filipino and a Jesuit institution. It is the eighth Church of Gesu outside the mother Church of the Society of Jesus in Rome, the Il Gesu, built in the early Renaissance and where St. Ignatius of Loyola was buried and major relics of St. Francis Xavier are found. It is the fulfillment of a dream of Fr. William F. Masterson, S.J., back in 1949, to build an icon of Jesuit vision and spirituality at the new campus in Loyola Heights.

Tomorrow, July 31, the feast of St. Ignatius, the Church of the Gesu will be dedicated in honor of Jesus our Lord. The solemn rites will be officiated by H.E. Jaime Cardinal Sin at 4 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Hill of the Loyola Heights campus.

The rites of Dedication and Anointing of the Church and Altar in all its richness in meaning and history will be observed. The highlights of the celebration are the consecration of the altar with sacred chrism, the blessing of the holy water, the sprinkling of holy water on the church walls, the anointing of 12 crosses representing the 12 apostles, and the incensation of the community. Relics of Sts. Ignatius, Francis Xavier, John Berchmans, Robert Bellarmine, Aloysius Gonzaga, Stanislaus Kostka, and the Japanese martyrs Paul Miki and John Goto will be placed beneath the altar.

Designed by Recio+Casas Architects, the church's striking triangular architecture symbolizes three things: the Holy Trinity, the outstretched arms of the Sacred Heart and the Filipino spirit embodied in the nipa hut roof design. The Church has a seating capacity of one thousand, a loft for the choir, two side chapels: one for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and another dedicated to Mother Mary, Patroness of the university.

Located at the crossroads of the grade school, high school, and college, the Ateneo Church of the Gesu will be the spiritual center of the campus, a constant reminder of the Atenean's love for Christ and Mary and his commitment to country for the greater glory of God.

China lifts RP travel ban

LEGAZPI CITY—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday announced that the People's Republic of China had lifted its advisory banning travel by Chinese nationals to the Philippines.

Gordon said he was tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to announce the good news during their talk in Malacañang on Sunday.

He said the President's concrete programs on security and her moves to stop kidnapping and terrorist acts had convinced Chinese authorities to lift the advisory.

He said it was a tangible admission by China of the administration's success in these efforts. *Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 30, 2002
17th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Jer 14:17-22
Gospel: Mt 13:36-43

Jesus sent the crowds away and went into the house. And his disciples came to him saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." Jesus answered them, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed are the people of the Kingdom; the weeds are those who follow the evil one. The enemy who sows them is the devil; the harvest is the end of time and the workers are the angels.

Just as the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so will it be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom all that is scandalous and all who do evil. And these will be thrown in the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. If you have ears, then hear."

Commentary

The field is the world. This parable teaches that the Kingdom of God exists and grows in the world, in all dimensions of the secular world. Sacred history is more than an ancient history in the land of Jesus, it is the entire human story. Both good and evil coexist in human history. We cannot simplistically divide the world between the good and the wicked, and make them fight to death. "Patience and time are more effective than force and violence," wrote La Fontaine. Both good and bad are present in institutions, persons and within each of us. Like Paul we could say: "I do not do what I want, but on the contrary, the very things I hate." (Rom 7:15) A day will come when you, after being purified, will shine like the sun in the presence of God.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Ignominy and cruelty—Ignominy is a circumstance pertaining to the moral order, which adds disgrace and obloquy to the material injury caused by the crime. The mere fact that accused-appellants burned the body of the deceased is not sufficient to show that the means were employed which added ignominy to the natural effects of the act. The circumstance of cruelty as found by the trial court may not be considered because there is no showing that the victim was burned while he was still alive. For cruelty to exist, there must be proof showing that the accused delighted in making their victim suffer slowly and gradually, causing him unnecessary physical and moral pain in the consummation of the criminal act. No proof was presented that would show that accused-appellants deliberately and wantonly augmented the suffering of their victim. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, People v. Catian, G. R. No. 139693, January 24, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

High court finds lawyer guilty of indirect contempt

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday found former Integrated Bar of the Philippines spokesperson Leonard de Vera guilty of indirect contempt for attempting to influence the high court's decision on the constitutionality of the plunder law last year.

In a full court decision, the high tribunal ordered the lawyer who founded the Equal Justice for All Movement (E-JUST) to pay a P20,000-fine in 10 days from notice as a consequence of his contemptuous statements published by the INQUIRER on Nov. 6 and 19 last year.

The court, which ruled to uphold the constitutionality of the plunder law, ruled unanimously to castigate De Vera for abusing the exercise of the freedom of speech.

Zambo editor writes '30'

RENE R. Fernandez, former Philippine Daily Inquirer Zamboanga City correspondent, died of a lingering illness last Saturday.

He was 51 when he succumbed to cirrhosis of the liver.

Fernandez is survived by wife Rebecca and children Felicia Agnetha, Patricia Katrina and Melisse Pilar.

A graduate of the Ateneo de Zamboanga, he went on to become editor in chief and publisher of The Morning Times, one of Zamboanga's leading newspapers. He was also a poet and fictionist. He taught journalism and creative writing at the Ateneo de Zamboanga.

He contributed feature stories to the INQUIRER and later served as part-time columnist of The Manila Times.

In 1998, he was appointed City Administrator under Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat.

In his one-year stint in the post, he surprised Chavacanos when he refused to accept gifts even during the Christmas holidays. Gifts were promptly returned to the senders.

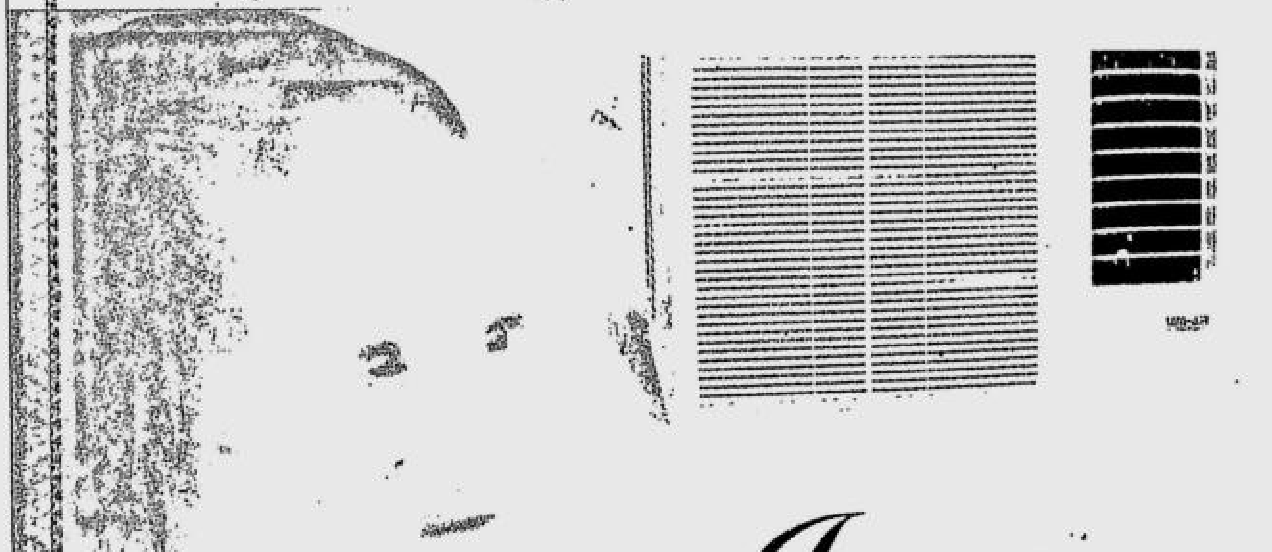
His body lies at his home in Barangay Talon-Talon. Interment is set on Aug. 3 at the Forest Lake cemetery in Tumaga after a 2 p.m. Mass at the Talon-Talon chapel. *Armand Nocum*

Genebraldo; 75

MARIANO Canubida Genebraldo, former mayor of San Fernando, Cebu, died last Friday, July 26. He was 75.

Genebraldo, a lawyer, served as San Fernando's mayor for 31 years. He is survived by his wife, Celerina de la Cruz Genebraldo; children, Raul, Lito, Liza and Jessie; and sisters Fausta G. Alicaway and Petra G. Generalao.

His body lies at the family home in San Fernando. Interment will be on Monday, Aug. 5 after the completion of the novenas and after the 2 p.m. Mass at St. Isidore Church in San Fernando, Cebu.



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Now, senators are engaged in a war of attrition

By Rocky Nazareno

JUST when everybody thought the crippling Senate impasse was over, work came to a screeching halt at the session floor yesterday.

The opposition, because they had the numbers, insisted that the big question be settled then and there: Was the June 3 to 6 "rump session" legal?

Sen. Blas Ople had just finished delivering his valedictory speech when Senate President Franklin Drilon, on the motion of Senate majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste, proceeded to adjourn the session.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel quickly rose to object. Expecting that the objection would lead to a motion approving the June 3 to 6 journal, Drilon instead suspended the proceedings.

The opposition could have the journal approved 12-11, since Sen. Robert Barbers was absent.

Ople, until yesterday, was still an opposition senator, since he takes his oath as foreign affairs secretary only today.

Jaworski, who has defected to the administration, earlier made public his intention to vote in favor of the "rump session," during which he authored two of the four bills passed.

"It was a sneak attack," said Legarda who stressed that the two blocs had earlier agreed that yesterday's session would be solely to honor Ople. Legarda said she and Drilon had discussed this in a caucus with Pimentel and Sen. Edgardo Angara.

"Now this?" she complained.,

Asked how the new deadlock might be resolved, Legarda said, "*Matigasan na ito* (this is now a fight to the finish)."

The opposition could reconvene their "new majority" if and when Drilon left the premises. Some of the senators fortified themselves for the waiting game with crackers and coffee.

As of 8 p.m., what administration Sen. Joker Arroyo described as an "attritional situation" was still inconclusive.

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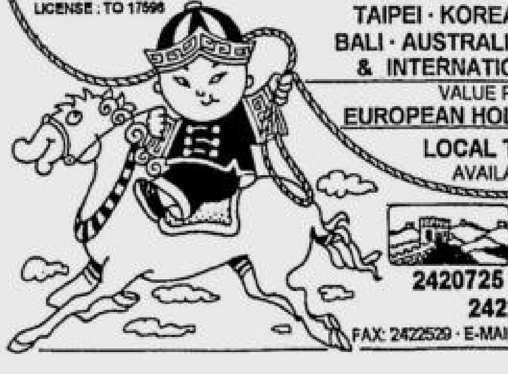

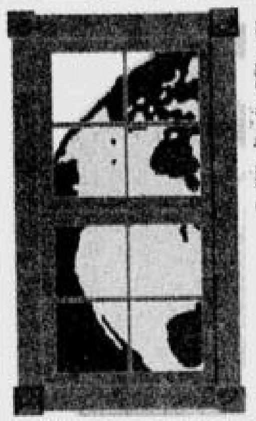

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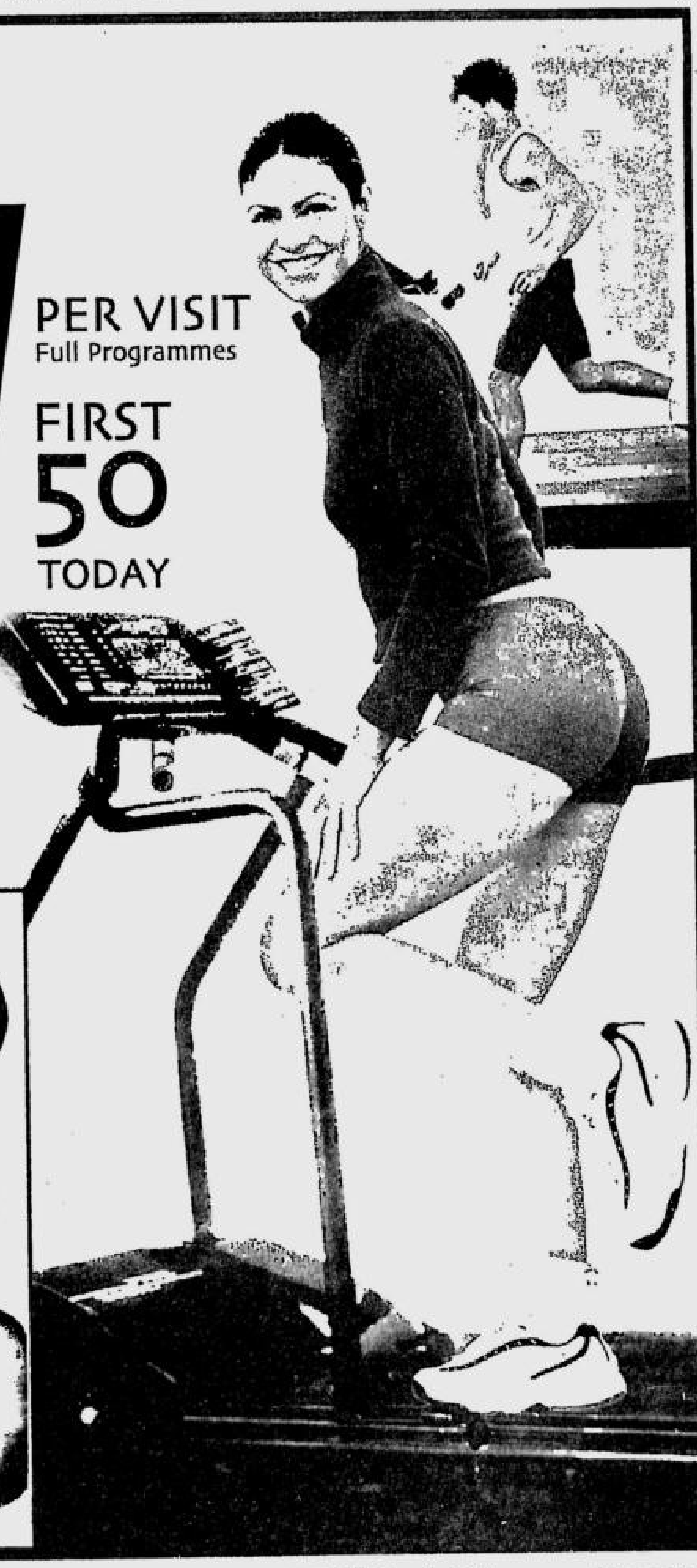

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A VALEDICTORY

Ople bids the Senate adieu, answers his critics

By Senator Blas F. Ople

Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee

(Delivered at the floor of the Senate, July 29, 2002)

MR. PRESIDENT:

I rise today to say farewell to all my colleagues in the Senate of the Philippines. Tomorrow, Tuesday, at 10 o'clock in the morning, I intend to take my oath as Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines before President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in Malacanang Palace, and I intend to assume my new duties immediately thereafter. Under the Constitution, I shall have to relinquish my seat in the Senate at that very moment.

Mr. President, I was first elected to the Senate in 1992 and was reelected to a second full term of six years in the national elections of 1998. I therefore have two more years to serve in the Senate, till the year 2004. But the call to a new challenge as a humble steward of Philippine foreign policy has proved irresistible. Coming from the opposition, I hope my decision to accept the President's invitation to join her Cabinet will also be a good augury for building national unity in a time of crisis.

Mr. President, fellow senators, today we are scheduled to concur in five bilateral treaties on third reading. This will bring the total number of treaties and conventions that I have sponsored since 1992, as your chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, to a remarkable total of 110. These treaties and conventions become part of the law of the land upon their approval by the Senate. By the standards of any country this is a prodigious output. It reflects favorably on the Senate's legislative productivity.

Every one of these treaties and conventions has strengthened the Philippines' political, economic and cultural ties with other nations, forging vital links to the international community under a rule of law.

I will always be grateful for your trust and confidence over the past ten years. Ever since I was elected in 1992, by your unanimous vote regardless of partisan differences, you have made me Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations irrespective of which party was in power. On July 26, 1999, you elected me President of the Senate by acclamation and subsequently I slid down to the office of Senate President Protempore.

Some of the remarkable landmarks in our international relations during the last decade were the Senate approval of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which created the World Trade Organization, and the ratification of the Visiting Forces Agreement which has enabled the Philippines and the United States to resume joint military exercises in pursuance of the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951. I remember we were wracked by dissensions over some of these agreements but in the end the full Senate went along and ratified them. On the VFA alone, the record shows I spent 47 hours on the floor answering interpellations.

Indeed the Senate has proved to be the country's prime national forum on issues of great import to the Filipino nation. Its journals and its archives will tell future historians how the senators grappled with the great issues and the high motives that inspired them to vote as they did. I cannot thank you enough for the support that you have always extended to me as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Commission on Appointments.

Precisely because this process of ratification has been difficult, this gave me the opportunity to learn more about the sincerity and patriotism of every senator regardless of what stand they took as conscientious individuals. I say this to reassure some of our friends in the House of Representatives who want the Senate abolished through a Constitutional amendment that they are sadly mistaken.

Mr. President, I have wished to limit this speech to a pure valedictory. But with your indulgence I have to take cognizance of some of the published criticisms that have been leveled against my appointment as Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

For example, there is the editorial yesterday in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, entitled, "The Wrong Man." It has really nothing to say except that I was identified with the camp of former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada and that I represent the antithesis of the spirit of EDSA I and EDSA Dos.

Mr. President, this editorial constitutes a vicious and scurrilous attack not only against my person but also against the President herself.

May I quote the following brief excerpts from the editorial (and I read):

"The siege of Malacanang on May 1, 2001, may have shaken the Palace to its foundations, but it was not the defining moment of the Macapagal administration. If President Macapagal wants to be the President of both EDSAs she can run for office in 2004 and seek a mandate on her own terms. Before then, she is merely the steward of people power.

"It is in this light that we see Ople as the wrong man for the job. His appointment is nothing less than a repudiation of EDSA II." (End of Quote).

Mr. President, this editorial appears to be synchronized with several articles of the same tenor published in the Inquirer under the byline of Mr. Amando Doronila. Mr. Doronila appears to have appointed himself as the Inspector Javert to my Jean Valjean in the epic *Les Miserables* of Victor Hugo. You will remember Javert ceaselessly hounding Jean Valjean who had been convicted of stealing a loaf of bread in his youth after he has emerged from the life of a convict to become a high and respected official of his province in France. In the end Inspector Javert was so filled by remorse that he killed himself, drowning himself in the sewers of the Seine. I do not predict a similar end for Mr. Doronila, but highly envenomed personalities never really discover the joys of personal peace and tranquil consciences.

Mind you, Mr. Doronila and the Inquirer have never cited a single concrete case where I was involved in any abuse of power. I have been in public service since 1953 when I served as a technical assistant to President Ramon Magsaysay. In the course of thirty years that I have been in government, I have not faced a single criminal, civil or administrative case alleging malfeasance or misfeasance in office against me. I have never been involved in any controversial contract with the government. I have never been linked to any act of graft and corruption. Just as I did in coming to the Senate, I come to the Cabinet of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with clean hands. My life is an open book. I have nothing to hide.

The unprecedented virulence and venom of Mr. Doronila's attacks also baffles me. I was trying hard to remember if I had ever caused him any hurt or injury, but I could not recall anything of the sort. The last close contact I had with him was in 1947, just after the war, when I was deputy chief of the public relations office of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines at the Mehan Gardens. We had advertised a vacancy for stenographer-clerk, and two persons applied. One was Pascual Racuyal, then a perennial candidate for President. The other was Amando Doronila. Although in the tests Racuyal beat Doronila on points, I decided to give him (Doronila) the job because his credentials included being editor of *The Dawn*, the student organ of the University of the East. I then gave Mr. Doronila his first professional writing job as editor of the Boy Scout News.

Since then our paths diverged; I moved over to the Philippine National Red Cross as deputy PR chief to Redentor Ma. Tuazon, now deceased, and later to *The Daily Mirror*, the afternoon newspaper of the Manila Times Publishing Co. I never met Doronila again until he became a prestigious journalist with a masteral degree from an Australian university. I completely ignored his existence, unable to join the universal acclaim for his analytical prowess.

Being such an envenomed personality, Mr. Doronila is often short of the objective mind that is required of a fair-minded political analyst. And like other people I also am entitled to choose my own friends. That is perhaps my sole unforgivable sin, that I have ignored Mr. Doronila's existence, refusing to join the homage he demanded of political leaders who are at the mercy of his vicious pen and elephantine ego. This decision was reinforced by the information coming my way that Doronila was engaged in the lobbying for the importation of Australian beef in the Department of Agriculture.

I refuse to believe the canard that Doronila is an agent of Australian interests in the Philippines. I do not give credence to this, especially at a time when the Australian government has denied access to fruit exports from the Philippines – our bananas and mangoes — on the ground of dangerous infestations, a finding questioned by our own experts — which may therefore put Mr. Doronila in a conflict of interest with his own country.

Mr. President, I would rather not delve into these issues but I plead the right of self-defense in the face of Doronila's unceasing attacks against my humble person, using the license of a writer for one of the country's great newspapers, *The Philippine Daily Inquirer*. This incident simply validates my own long-held belief that the best defense against irrational critics lies in one's own armor of personal integrity.

Mr. Doronila and other detractors have far from succeeded in denting that armor, not in the remotest sense. I know they will keep trying but they will not succeed.

Mr. President, this is a story of two parallel lives, as in Plutarch. Doronila and I both started at the bottom. We both pursued a career in journalism. Somewhere along the way, on the path to progress, I passed him on the road to become a senator and now, Secretary of Foreign Affairs. I think he cannot forgive me for this. The Tagalogs have a word for this: *inggit*. But this does not prove that I am the better man. The Tagalogs also can explain this: *swertihan lang*.

And may I say this of the *Inquirer*. In spite of a slight dissonance over Mr. Doronila and his severely prejudiced mind, I retain my admiration and good will for its entire editorial staff led by Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc and its management led by Ms. Marixi R. Prieto and Mrs. Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez. This is a sincere compliment coming from an old journalistic hand and one who writes a column for the *Manila Bulletin*.

Mr. President, there has also been some criticism directed at me from a shadowy group calling itself COPA, and in particular from a buzzing public insect by the name of Pastor "Boy" Saycon. Of late Mr. Saycon has been saying I could not be trusted as Secretary of Foreign Affairs because I have admitted to being an "Amboy."

Mr. President, what I did admit was that I am a friend of the United States and an admirer of its great political and civil institutions. It is only in the twisted minds and dialectic of the Communist Party and ignorant non-entities such as Saycon that being a friend of the US translates into an "Amboy" label. Indeed the great, overwhelming majority of the Filipino people see themselves as friends of the United States and friends of the entire free world of nations. Mr. Saycon is therefore indicting most Filipinos as a nation of Amboys.

I have admitted being a student of the history of the United States, especially the American Revolution, the United States Civil War, and the American Constitution. My private library is heavily stocked with books on this subject, including the *Federalist Papers* of Hamilton, Madison and Jay, which served me as a handbook in the debates of the Constitutional Commission of 1986. In the perverted mind of Boy Saycon, such interest in American history, makes me an Amboy. Mr. President, you and I know that it is not easy to pierce the armor of ignorance in which Saycon and others like him have imprisoned themselves.

In May 1986, not long after President Marcos went on his exile, President Corazon Aquino appointed me to the Constitutional Commission of 1986 that wrote the present Constitution of the Philippines. Her Proclamation No. 9 had stipulated the four criteria for membership, namely integrity, probity, nationalism and patriotism. You cannot miss this contrast: Cory Aquino's broadminded, open-hearted approach and Mr. Doronila's hopelessly closed, self-righteous mentality. Later President Aquino publicly commended me for my constructive role in the Con-Com.

I also admit also to being a friend of China, Japan, the European Union, and above all, the members of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN). I feel a strong attachment to Spain and the entire Iberian world in Latin America. I am pulled by a strong empathy for the problems of Africa. I grieve for all the victims of the bloody strife in the Holy Land, be they Palestinians or Jews. I long to see the reconciliation of the two Koreas, North and South.

In short, I love my country but I also love the world in all its splendid diversity. I revel in the world's complexity. Thus I have to feel sorry for characters like Boy Saycon who inhabit a small hole in the ground, burrowing themselves into a hopeless parochialism and festering mediocrity. What do we do with the insects buzzing in our ears? We swat them. But I have already forgiven him in the spirit of Christian charity.

Mr. President, as I leave the Senate and this beloved session hall, may I express my own gratitude to you personally for showing a broad-minded attitude throughout this controversy. I cannot mention every senator by name, but I extend the same expression of thanks to the other officers of the Senate, Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar, the majority leader, Sen. Loren Legarda Leviste, the minority leader, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Jr, and the president of the opposition party, the LDP, Senator Edgardo Angara.

I am indebted to Senators Robert Barbers and Ralph Recto, Loren Legarda Leviste, Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar and Senate President Franklin M. Drilon, for the warm expressions of support. My thanks also go to Senators Pimentel, Angara, Lacson, Honasan and other opposition senators for their kind words.

Some well-meaning friends, including former Associate Justice Isagani Cruz of the Supreme Court, now a columnist of the *Inquirer*, have pointed out to me to the hazards of being a Cabinet member. Unlike a member of the Senate who enjoys a fixed term, a member of the Cabinet holds office only at the President's pleasure. I thank them for their solicitude, but life anyway affords few certainties, and to demand complete security is both chimerical and self-defeating.

I have already been a Cabinet member, and the first lesson I learned is that a member of the Cabinet should lose his fear of unemployment as the first condition for being an effective participant and contributor in the work of government.

If we are to be men of principle, we should not fear putting our jobs at risk, if that is the price to pay for honest, principled contributions. The one unforgivable breach is to quarrel with the President in public.

The President is of course right in demanding loyalty of her subordinates and in requiring that they perform as members of one team under her leadership. The President's trust and confidence, on the other hand, is earned only through good performance. But a Cabinet member is also only as good as the President allows him to be. And may I say I believe with full faith and confidence in the sincerity of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, perhaps the hardest-working President this country has ever had and certainly one of the ablest in our history.

Mr. President, I have given enough details to show that my new job as Secretary of Foreign Affairs grows out of my work in the Senate and therefore I owe this to you as much as I owe it to the President of the Philippines and to the Filipino people. It was the Senate that created me as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. I say this with all sincerity and with gratitude in my heart.

Mr. President, I also wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have endorsed my appointment to the portfolio of foreign affairs, especially the members of Congress, numerous columnists, commentators and members of the mass media, and organizations of Filipino overseas workers, both land-based and sea-based, the leaders of Bulacan Province from the entire political spectrum, Philippine embassies throughout the world, and officials and employees of the Department of Labor and Employment where I used to serve.

To my well-meaning critics, I say; I respect your views and ask you to hold your judgment and give me a chance to prove your fears and doubts are misplaced.

Mr. President, I now say adieu to the Senate with the conviction that while we follow divergent paths in the service of our country, we are still united by the strongest bond of all: an unwavering fidelity to our national interest and in securing the safety, welfare and happiness of the Filipino people.

May I invoke the blessing of Our Lord Jesus Christ upon us all.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(The publication of this valedictory of Senator Blas F. Ople in the Senate is made possible through the Institute for Public Policy with address at the 3rd Floor of the Phil. Social Science Center, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.)

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REMOVING LEPROSY AND ITS STIGMA

Dr. Ruth Pfau arrived in Pakistan in 1960 and began work at a one-hut leprosy dispensary in a Karachi slum. Over the next thirty years she built the dispensary into Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC), a modern hospital-cum-training center and the hub of a nationwide leprosy control program that has made Pakistan among the first Asian countries to control the disease (by WHO criteria). Pfau, a Catholic nun, is now retired but continues her work through MALC, which today includes feeding and repatriating Afghan refugees adrift in Pakistan. The Foundation recognizes "her lifelong dedication to eradicating leprosy and its stigma in Pakistan, and other loving gifts to her adopted country."

CYNTHIA MAUNG

BURMA

2002
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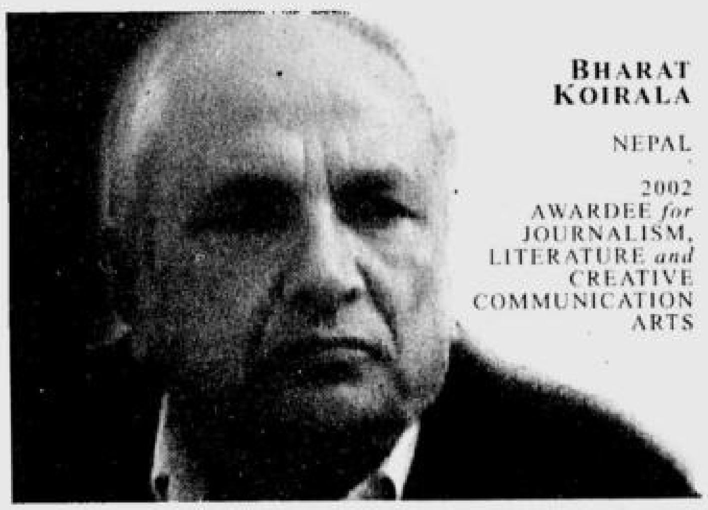
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP

CARING FOR THE UPROOTED

Cynthia Maung, a Karen doctor, fled Burma in the wake of the brutal military crackdown of 1988. In Mae Sot, Thailand, a town awash with refugees, she set up a makeshift clinic to treat the common scourges and wounds of war. She also trained backpack medics to serve ethnic communities across the border and under siege. Today, with five doctors, Dr. Cynthia's clinic treats 30,000 people a year and dispatches sixty teams of medics for work in the still unsettled border zone. The Foundation recognizes her "humane and fearless response to the urgent medical needs of thousands of refugees and displaced persons along the Thailand-Burma border."



BHARAT KOIRALA

NEPAL

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AWARDEE *for*
JOURNALISM,
LITERATURE *and*
CREATIVE
COMMUNICATION
ARTS

DEMOCRATIZING INFORMATION

As a young newspaperman in Nepal, Bharat Koirala learned the ropes of journalism under strict state censorship. But as founder and lifetime mentor of the Nepal Press Institute (from 1984), he trained a new breed of professional reporters and laid the groundwork for an independent press in the years to come. Later projects such as small-town "wall newspapers," local community newspapers, and, more recently, community-based radio stations are democratizing journalism in Nepal and spreading its impact to many once-isolated towns and hamlets. The Foundation recognizes him for "developing professional journalism in Nepal and unleashing the democratizing powers of a free media."

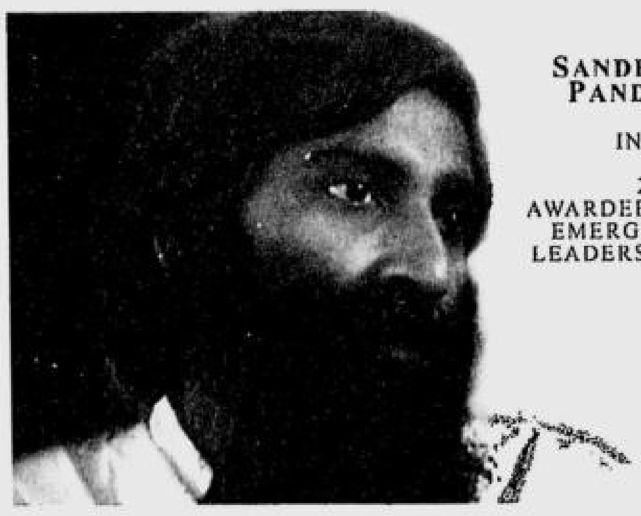
SUKHO CHOI

KOREA

2002
AWARDEE *for*
PEACE AND
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING

APPEALING FOR RECONCILIATION

As a young man, Sukho Choi participated in South Korea's democracy movement and later became a Buddhist monk—the Venerable Pomnyun Snim. As famine loomed in North Korea in the 1990s, he learned its appalling dimensions by surveying North Korean "food refugees" in China. He called upon the world and the South Korean government to put politics aside and rush to the country's aid, and stirred South Koreans to give liberally to their starving neighbors. Generosity and reconciliation, not hostility, he said, was the true path to Korea's reunification. The Foundation recognizes Sukho Choi's "compassionate attention to the human cost of Korea's bitter division and his hopeful appeal for reconciliation."



SANDEEP PANDEY

INDIA

2002
AWARDEE *for*
EMERGENT
LEADERSHIP

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

With fellow graduate students at the University of California-Berkeley, Sandeep Pandey founded Asha (Hope) in 1991 to raise money among Indians in the United States for education and poverty alleviation in India. Pandey returned to India as Asha's fundraising flourished and, forgoing a career in engineering, dedicated himself directly to socioeconomic change at the grassroots. In Asha-sponsored schools and projects, he promotes self-reliance and the elimination of caste and gender biases—inspiring young volunteers to join him. Nationally, he is a rising foe of nuclear arms in India and a vocal proponent of peace in the subcontinent. The Foundation recognizes "the empowering example of his commitment to the transformation of India's poor."

The public is cordially invited to meet the 2002 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees at the Awards Presentation Ceremonies, to be held at 5:00 P.M. on August 31, 2002 at the Main Theater, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

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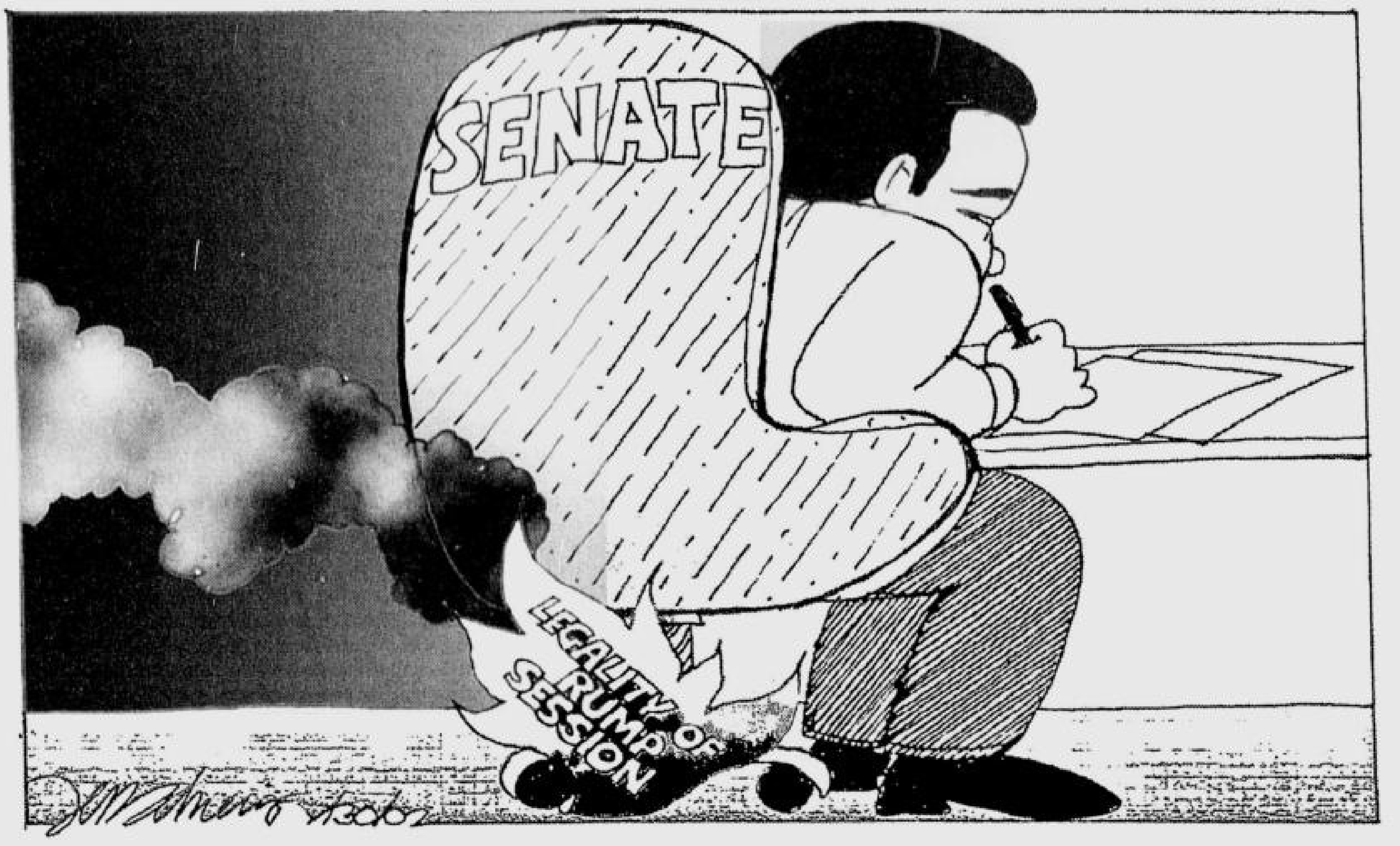

The next ombudsman

EDITORIAL

ON SUNDAY, Aug. 4, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto will retire and President Macapagal-Arroyo will have to appoint his successor. If the President is sincere in her promise to curb graft and corruption, she will appoint a person who is honest, incorruptible and independent and who has the political will to go hammer and tongs after the grafters in government.

There is no dearth of good nominees for ombudsman. There is Chair Haydee Yorac of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the mere mention of whose name should be enough to make grafters quake in their boots. There is former Sen. Wigberto Tañada whose integrity is unassailable. There is Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo who performed creditably in the Estrada impeachment trial and who is doing well in his present post. And there is Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno who has built a reputation for integrity and competence in his 27 years in the National Prosecution Service.

Some government officials and politicians have been floating the names of other nominees. Some of these people apparently have vested interests to protect. President Macapagal would be well-advised to avoid following the example set by former President Fidel V. Ramos who, it was believed, appointed Desierto to protect his rear, after he would have bowed out of the presidency.

If President Macapagal does a Ramos and appoints as ombudsman a person who is perceived to be the "protector" of the Chief Executive and her officials and friends, her credibility will suffer and the administration's anti-graft campaign will not make much headway. Ms Macapagal cannot afford to have another Desierto occupying the position of ombudsman.

Admittedly, Desierto has made the people aware that there is such a position as ombudsman because he has maintained a high profile and has been very controversial. He has the dubious distinction of having two impeachment cases filed against him in the House. He was accused of whitewashing the government's case against those involved in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam. He was also accused of bungling the prosecution and investigation of 145 tax credit scam cases in the Sandiganbayan. These are just the more recent cases.

Rep. Oscar Moreno of Misamis Oriental and Party-List Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna, who filed the charges, accused him of having "raped" his constitutional office. The two cases cannot be considered frivolous or "politically motivated." The two congressmen were joined in the case by Akbayan, Courage, Selda, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, Agham, the National Union of Students in the Philippines, Gabriela, Bayan, Ouster and Kadamay.

The pity of it is that an honest, all-out effort by Desierto could have made a great deal of difference in the campaign against graft and corruption. But the Lawyers for an Ombudsman's Freedom and Tenacity (Lofty) said that the Office of the Ombudsman "has not resulted in a substantial curtailment of graft and corruption in the Philippines."

"During the past seven years, the Office of the Ombudsman has been wracked by serious allegations of corruption, with the present ombudsman was perceived as having to rely on political connections to extricate himself from successive impeachment charges," a statement issued by Lofty said.

Its spokesperson, Rachel Pastores, said most of the charges filed against the family and cronies of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos have dragged on, if they have not been dismissed altogether, because of the alleged inefficiency and corrupt practices of the office.

The Office of Ombudsman was created by the 1986 Constitutional Commission as a reaction to the mind-boggling level of corruption during the Marcos dictatorship. The ombudsman and his deputies "are protectors of the people and shall act promptly on complaints filed against government officials or employees." The concept is like that of the Scandinavian ombudsman who investigates individuals' complaints of maladministration.

The ombudsman is a very powerful official who can act promptly on complaints against any government functionary (including presidents), employee, office or agency. Sad to say, the present ombudsman has not brought about a change in the graft and corruption picture in the country. We hope the President will appoint a new Ombudsman who will pursue the anti-graft campaign with a lot of zeal and vigor.

Crisis at the International School

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE is an Aesop's fable about a greedy dog carrying a bone in its mouth as it trotted home. Crossing a wooden bridge, the dog saw its reflection in the water below and thought it was another dog with a bone in its mouth. Wanting to get the other bone, the dog barked to scare the other into dropping the bone. As it opened its mouth, the bone in its mouth dropped into the river below. In its greed to get another bone, it lost the bone it already had.

I am reminded of that fable because of what is happening at the International School Manila, one of the proudest names in education in Southeast Asia. The labor union of Filipino teachers, the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE), has just won a favorable decision from the Supreme Court. The tribunal ruled that Filipino teachers must be paid the same salaries as foreigner teachers who were originally getting higher pay. Equal pay for equal work, said the Court. The local teachers are now the highest paid in the Philippines, receiving between $33,000 and $45,000 a year, tax-free, (the school pays all the taxes) or a monthly net income of between P140,000 and P190,000 a month. (Compare that to the salary of the finest academic in the University of the Philippines.) In fact, local teachers take home more than teachers hired from abroad.

But the teachers' union is not satisfied with that. It wants the award to be retroactive to 1995 when their claim for higher pay was first made. The school believes that the Court's decision is a new policy and applies only prospectively and not retrospectively.

Sycip, Gorres and Velayo has conservatively estimated that the backpay will amount to $17 million, or P900 million. The school claims that it cannot afford to pay the amount and that if it is forced to do so, it will go bankrupt and will be forced to close down, throwing its 527 employees out of their high-paying jobs and 1,500 students of 59 different nationalities out of their school.

The school has no reserves, said the school's management, and every single dollar in its capital fund is pledged by contract to the consortium of banks that hold a mortgage on the new campus in Fort Bonifacio, "the largest education project worldwide."

"The school does not even have enough money to fund the fitting out of the new campus, especially in terms of the sports and fine arts facilities, and is seeking donations to help," the school said. "Even if there were a negotiated schedule of payments, that could only be funded through a massive tuition increase that would place us far above our competitors, Brent School and the British School, and consequently drive away many of our clientele. That, in turn, would also mean bankruptcy. First of all, because the annual capital levies would diminish and thus interrupt our payments on the mortgage; second, because the new campus is, in part, funded by a Special Project Fee of $5,000 payable per student and reimbursable when the student leaves. If the number of students leaving is greater than the number of students joining, then the fund collapses immediately. At a stroke, then, the Court has paved the way for the destruction of one of the most prestigious schools in the world."

The Department of Labor and Employment has confirmed the right of the ISAE to have the backpay and ordered the school to submit figures in preparation for an instruction to make payment. The school obtained a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals and is awaiting confirmation of the TRO in oral arguments that will begin soon.

Whatever happens, the case will go up to the Supreme Court. Indeed, the union is lobbying for the SC to intervene immediately. The Court will be obliged to write a clarificatory note to the original decision. If the note simply says that the decision was always intended to be prospective and not to make a material impact on the secondary issue of superannuation, then, once and for all, the matter is closed and the open sore that has been bleeding IS Manila for 20 years will finally heal.

The school argues that the decision penned by Justice Santiago Kapunan (who is due to retire next month), insofar as it rejected "point of hire" as a guideline to salary, and by its invocation of the UN Declaration of Human Rights to support the ruling (a legal first), must be recognized as the creation of policy, which is therefore, by definition, prospective.

The union, on the other hand, claims the decision was an arbitral award and, as such, is retrospective.

What will happen if the Court agrees with the union? Then the union members, like the dog in the fable, will lose what they already have: the high pay now already on parity with those of the foreign hires. In fact, they will lose all their income if the school is closed down due to bankruptcy.

But unions never believe that companies will close down when they go on strike. "They're only scaring us," is the usual reaction.

But sometimes they are not. And this reminds me of another story:

When the employees union of the Daily Globe asked for hefty pay increases, the management offered to give a little increase but not the big amount the union wanted. Everybody knew the company was losing but the union threatened to go on strike. The management said it could not afford the raise and it might be forced to close down. The union did not believe management and it went on strike. The newspaper closed down. All the workers lost their jobs.

Fighting pirates

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LAST week, the President made a big show of burning the DVDs, VCDs and CDs seized by the Videogram Regulatory Board in raids on pirate lairs in various parts of the city. The VRB crowed about those raids several weeks ago, as Bong Revilla, the newly appointed anti-piracy czar, tried to impress the world with his zeal. He was not going to stop until he had routed the pirates, he said. The President echoed the same message last week.

If they think they are striking a heroic pose with this, they've got another think coming. In fact, they're just being silly.

The first thing that leaped to my mind when I saw them on TV in their pyromaniacal glory was, who was going to do the same thing to the computers in the VRB and Malacañang itself that were using unlicensed software. Who was going to swoop down on those offices at break of day, armed with door-breakers, and cart off all the PCs that booted on any Windows version not licensed by Microsoft and used word processing and other programs not licensed by their makers? Who was going to pile them up in a heap and make of them a bonfire of the vanities?

Well, maybe cops from one of the more obscure precincts off Manila. They still use manual typewriters there.

But I'll wait for President Macapagal-Arroyo and Bong Revilla, or anyone of their subalterns, to issue a statement saying all the computers in their offices use only non-pirated software.

I am not averse to an anti-piracy policy, as I've said before, but it should be based not on morality (that is a very tricky word) but on national interest. I am all for an anti-piracy policy that cracks down on those who make illegal copies of local movies and music albums. That is a matter of national interest, that is a matter of national survival. But to make that anti-piracy policy cover foreign movies and music albums, that I will not support. That, in fact, I will continue to oppose vehemently.

At the very least, it is hypocritical, as suggested above. Where is the morality in confiscating pirated DVDs and VCDs from the flea-bitten Muslim vendors in Quiapo and Virra Mall when well-fed government officials, from Malacañang to the lowest LGU, are using pirated software? Indeed, when the very entertainers that are loudly crying for an uncritical anti-piracy policy are issuing incensed manifestos typed from unlicensed Microsoft Word programs? What is the difference between a music CD or movie and a software program? Try compelling this country to use only licensed software, and see how much further we will lag behind other Southeast Asian countries in education. See how much deeper we will sink into the bog of backwardness.

More than this—and this has to be repeated again and again—where is the morality in a government agency paid for by taxpayers' money protecting the interests of Columbia or 20th Century Fox? Indeed, a government agency paid for in part by the very same flea-bitten Muslim vendors in Quiapo or Virra Mall, whose stock they took away. Surely they pay taxes, too, for those flea-infested stalls? I don't know why those vendors shouldn't pool resources to hire a lawyer to challenge the legality of those raids in court.

If the Videogram Regulatory Board people swoop down on Virra Mall and Quiapo and cart off all the pirated copies of local music and movies—including those of Bong Revilla, though I don't know why anybody would want to pirate them—I will praise them to high heavens. They have the right, and duty, to protect the Filipino moviemaker and musician. If they swoop down on Virra Mall and Quiapo and cart off the pirated copies of foreign music and movies, including the TV sets and Chinese-made DVD players of the impoverished vendors—yes, they took them, too—I will damn them. They have no business using the money taken forcibly from me as tax withheld, as I cannot hire a lawyer and accountant to help me evade taxes, unlike the multinationals in this country, to indulge in this profligate show of altruism.

I buy pirated DVDs and I make my own copies of music CDs from MP3s. I dare Bong Revilla to arrest me on these grounds. But I do not buy pirated copies of local movies and music. The quality of the pirated VCD has nothing to do with it, though while at this, how can anyone prefer it, when it looks and sounds like those wretched Betamax rip-offs, to the movie shown in moviehouses? That is the only principle I recognize here. I will not buy the local stuff because it stands to put out of employment Filipinos who work in the local movie and music industries.

That is the only anti-piracy policy we need. That is the only anti-piracy policy we want. If the government wants something more, then it should discourage the flea-bitten vendors from selling all those junk action movies and encourage them to add to their stock of critically acclaimed foreign movies and music. Might as well improve this country's taste in the arts, something Imelda was never able to do, which should widen the market for the movies being made by Joel Lamangan, Chito Rono, Carlitos Siguion-Reyna and Marilou Diaz-Abaya. Never mind the movies made by Revilla, pere or fils.

The government has no more paramount duty than to educate this country by any means possible. If it takes piracy to do that, then by all means let us employ piracy. America did. Britain did. "Beg, steal, or borrow" is the phrase lovers use to suggest the lengths they would go to win the object of their love, or desperate craving. That applies as well to education.

In any case, "steal" is a tricky word. Intellectual property rights can always be argued to be nothing more than institutional, if disguised, theft by the rich countries of the poor. But that's another story.

LETTERS

Sovereignty, security cannot be compromised

THE SUCCESSIVE announcements of three developments—all having to do with RP-US relations—may have given President Macapagal-Arroyo great satisfaction. But for the Filipino people these developments bode ill. They are liable to sink the Philippines deeper into the quagmire of the US "war on terror," especially because of what European allies decry as the increasing US "unilateralism"—the tendency to decide alone on the conduct of such a war.

First, the US-RP Mutual Defense Board endorsed a five-year work plan to transform the Balikatan 02-1 joint military exercises into a "sustained program of security cooperation and counter-terrorism training and assistance."

Second, US President George Bush ordered the release of $10 million as "immediate counter-terrorism assistance" to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to meet an "unforeseen emergency" that was not specified.

And third, Vice President Teofisto Guingona resigned as foreign secretary to set aside "honest difference of opinion on policy" and yield to the President as the "chief architect of foreign policy."

The first raises questions about the parameters of such security operation program, their implications on Philippine sovereignty and national security. The second may relate to the pending approval of the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangements. The last has pleased Ms Macapagal and Bush because Guingona provided probably the lone, though not assertive enough, opposition in the Cabinet to the US designs.

Although the MDB plan will be submitted to the two governments for review and consideration, it is a foregone conclusion that it will be approved. Moreover, the MDB said the plan "will continue to be reviewed and updated annually through the MDB process." Meaning it will be adjusted to what direction the US war on terror develops, such as the policy, enunciated by Bush on June 1, of "preemptive attack" on suspected enemies anywhere.

By tying itself to such a plan, the government will imperil the Philippines by being dragged into every preemptive attack—or war—the United States may decide to launch against any enemy. That target may not be an enemy of the Philippines.

The MLSA assumes importance to the US preemptive attack policy, as it can provide convenient storage of US war materiel and other facilities for launching a preemptive attack from the Philippines.

Could the "unforeseen emergency" that impelled Bush to order the release of $10 million to the Armed Forces of the Philippines be related to the MLSA approval? When US Defense Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz visited the country, he pledged more aid if the Philippine government hastened the approval of the MLSA. Bush may be redeeming that pledge.

The MLSA is objectionable because, like the "terms of reference" of the Balikatan exercises, it extends the parameters of military activities defined in the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty or the RP-US Military Assistance Agreement and beyond the provisions of the 1987 Constitution. It clearly aims to apply in "operations and deployments outside the purview of the Mutual Defense Treaty."

The resignation of Guingona as foreign secretary may have removed the semblance of dissent or debate within the administration over these issues. But it does not efface—in fact the resignation enhances—the urgency of thoroughly advancing the mass movement opposed to US military presence in the Philippines.

The issues of sovereign and national security cannot be compromised, and the government cannot just set aside these primordial national concerns.

—SATUR OCAMPO, president, Bayan Muna, 28 Magiting Road, Teachers' Vill., Diliman, Quezon City

Funds for titling of ancestral lands

THIS refers to the news item, entitled "Agency says it can't meet targets," last July 9, 2002. We would like to make a clarification in order to put the statements of NCIP Commissioner Edtami Mansayagan in the proper context. It is hoped that this will also respond to the letter of Omi Royandoyan of the Philippine Peasant Institute entitled "Misplaced presidential ire." (PDI, 7/17/02)

Mansayagan said that in her State of the Nation Address last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo included the distribution of 100 Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles to indigenous peoples among her targets. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) later on identified this target for IPs as 50 certificates of ancestral domain title and 50 certificates of ancestral land covering close to 800,000 hectares and requiring a total budget of P450 million. The President had ordered the budget department to include this amount in the budget of the NCIP for 2002, but, it was too late since the proposed national budget was already in Congress.

To remedy the situation the President ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on March 5, 2002 to set aside P55 million from its own funds for the survey and titling of ancestral domains. But the target number of CADTS had to be downscaled to the titling of at least 100,000 hectares before the end of 2002.

For the record, the DENR and NCIP have met several times to discuss how the funds can be transferred to the NCIP. Finally, in his letter dated June 26, 2002, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez informed the NCIP that "there is an available Sona budget in the amount of P15,000,000 which could be utilized by the NCIP...for CADT processing/issuance and monitoring and evaluation of ancestral titling activities."

Also in support of ancestral domains titling, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) accessed P20 million from the Presidential Social Fund and released the amount to the NCIP last June 14, 2002. Last June 25, 2002, the DBM also released to the NCIP the amount of P14,110,000 which was sourced from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) pursuant to Sec. 71 of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 providing for the creation of a special fund to be known as the Ancestral Domains Fund.

Even prior to these recent fund releases, the NCIP had actually started cultural mapping activities, genealogical studies, census updating, community organizing boundary conflict-resolution and other social assessment activities in target ancestral domain areas. These activities are part of the process of delineating, surveying and titling of ancestral domain claims. The time frame for all these vary from claim to claim depending on the preparedness of the community, the presence of conflicts, size and terrain of the domains, and the peace and order situation, among others.

The NCIP is set to approve the CADT application of the Kankanaey IPs of Bakun in Benguet Province. It also hopes to issue more CADTs covering at least 100,000 hectares of ancestral domain claims by October this year which is Indigenous Peoples' Month in the Philippines.

—EVELYN S. DUNUAN, chair, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, 2nd Flr., D&E Bldg., cor. Roces and Quezon Avenue, QC

Keeping faith with the President

THE NATION is beset with all sorts of serious problems: slow economic growth, subversion, terrorism and illegal drugs, crime and corruption and climate change aggravated by our ignorance and indifference to environmental degradation.

Amid all this, President Macapagal-Arroyo still must contend with the current political logjam. She must break this deadlock, hold the center, and move the nation forward.

Let us have faith in her commitment to uphold the national interest. At this time nitpicking and indulging in false amor propio is doing the country a disservice.

"Kalampagin ang Konsiyensiyang Kinakalawang" (KKK) sympathizes with her. How does a leader harmonize all sectors with competing demands, including the need to mitigate intransigent and violent opposition, without compromising her avowed program of good governance and call for moral revolution?

The forum attended by a good number of Cabinet members led by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo was a sincere gesture on the part of the President. By her gesture, she affirmed the value of civil society and recognized the need for clearing up misunderstanding, for sustaining a bridge of continuing dialogue, and for crystallizing the truth and forging national cooperation. We agree with her that honest differences can be resolved without providing fodder for media spin, disinformation, destabilization and smear drives by the enemies of the state. The spirit of goodwill and trust must be harnessed. The alternative is interminable conflict, paralysis and decline.

More than ever, the President needs our understanding and support in our common fight against poverty and pollution. She has shown her honest resolve to win this war. Let us offer prayers and our creative energies for the common good. Let us pray for the end of conflicting personal agendas so that caring and sacrifice may prevail to strengthen our Edsa People Power heritage of restored freedom and democracy.

We at the KKK pledge to President Arroyo our solid support. Like her, we pray for an end to political bickering and for unity towards peace, social justice and sustainable prosperity for our people.

—CECILE GUIDOTE-ALVAREZ, SR. ARNOLD MARIE NOEL, SSp.S, MSGR. NICO BAUTISTA, CARLO ANTONIO BERNABE
Kalampagin Konsiyensiyang Kinakalawang

Much ado over nothing

SOME people, mostly politicians, are up in arms over US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone's remarks about widespread corruption in the Philippines.

While it may be true that a foreign ambassador is not the right person to point this out, let us for once be honest and admit that his observation hit the nail right on the head! Truth may really hurt but no amount of denial, protestation and sentimental show of wounded pride on our part can negate the simple, glaring fact that corruption indeed is a cancer that has long pervaded Filipino society.

If we could not put an end to corruption—through our decades-long pretense that it does not even exists—then this foreign envoy's admonition might just be what the doctor prescribed! If a slap on our collective face is what it takes to wake us up from our national stupor, then what's the harm done?

It is very noticeable that the strongest reactions to the US envoy's observation are coming mostly from politicians! They are making frenzied protestations in the name of nationalism, and in the process merely manifest their guilty conscience. After all, most of the corruption in the country are caused by these con artists masquerading as politicians.

Wasting our precious time and energy reacting to Ricciardone's observations won't bring us anywhere. Better if we take his observation as a challenge and a clarion call for much needed reform to curb endemic corruption and transform Philippine society.

—WILFREDO DEREQUITO,
fred0953@yahoo.com

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Quiapo, Washington, Cytotec

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE HIDDEN camera takes a long shot of the Quiapo vendor, then zooms in on her necklace—"proof," as far as the TV show's host is concerned, that she has made lots of money selling the abortifacient Cytotec.

The whole operation, including the hidden cameras, is part of a set-up, organized by a television channel and the police to trap the vendor. An "asset" buys the tablets and a few minutes later, the police move in to arrest the vendors. The camera follows their interrogation in a police vehicle. The policeman curses the women several times, the invectives beeped out for the desired dramatic effect. At the end of the segment, the commentator, in dark sunglasses and standing in front of an Army-type vehicle, booms: "We'll keep coming back for you."

Every few weeks some "investigative journalist" has to pick up on the Cytotec issue, as if it were something new. The police storm Quiapo, make a few arrests and disperse the vendors. Shortly afterwards, sometimes within a few days, the stalls are back.

The mass media's coverage of Cytotec is hypocritical, pretending to be part of a morality campaign but, like all of moralism, ends up capitalizing on people's despair and misery. There are little or no attempts to explain why abortion occurs in the first place, or what this Cytotec is.

Cytotec's generic name is misoprostol, which is different from mifepristone or RU-486, the "abortion pill" approved in the United States in 2000. Cytotec was available, legally, for many years in the Philippines as a drug to prevent gastrointestinal bleeding in people taking certain arthritis drugs. But Cytotec's package inserts also warned about an important side effect: it causes the uterus to contract and therefore should not be taken by pregnant women.

That side effect eventually became Cytotec's main indication, for which it has been sold for many years now, in front of the Quiapo church, together with herbal preparations to "bring back the menstruation" (*pamparegla*). Cytotec's local distributor eventually withdrew the drug but it's now smuggled in illegally from neighboring countries and is sold underground in many of the Philippines' major cities.

In the United States, Cytotec is used in combination with other abortifacients for pregnancies up to seven weeks. Women are first given either RU486, or the drug methotrexate, which starts the abortion. A few days later Cytotec is administered to complete the abortion. The combination of the two drugs, administered under medical supervision, is safe and effective.

The latest edition of "Managing Contraception," an American publication giving updated information on family planning methods, advises against using misoprostol alone because it does not always lead to a complete abortion. The book notes that there are other "safe alternative regimens."

But in the Philippines, women have to contend with misoprostol, bought off Quiapo and administered at home without medical advice or supervision. Vendors claim Cytotec will work in pregnancies of up to three or four months. Each dose of several tablets can run up to several hundred pesos, but this is still cheaper than the thousands of pesos charged by clandestine clinics for surgical abortion. Only the herbal concoctions are cheaper, but the vendors themselves will tell you they're not very effective. Safety? Cytotec has its risks but it is certainly much safer than using improvised catheters—a hanger, for example.

The media people have a field day with their cameras, aware of the ironies surrounding the Cytotec trade in Quiapo. This is the heart of Manila, a city whose mayor has banned artificial contraception from all government centers. Housing the Black Nazarene, the Quiapo church is also a spiritual center of the city. Cytotec is actually sold together with amulets, rosaries and other religious items.

I wouldn't be surprised if women did in fact buy a prayer book to go with the Cytotec. They're not sure how the drug works, if it works. The instructions, scribbled on pad paper, and varying according to the stage of pregnancy and the vendor, are cold and cryptic: Drink X tablets. Lie down. Put X tablets in your vagina. Do not stand until the next morning. Do not eat anything sour.

The vendors don't always explain the possible side effects, which can range from mild cramps to bleeding and infections. An incomplete abortion, or heavy bleeding, can be serious enough to require hospitalization. It can be a long, harrowing night of waiting, of uncertainty, of praying.

But all these illegal abortions are going to continue as long as women can't access information and services for family planning. The Catholic Church says we should stick to natural family planning but there are few parishes with such programs in place. The government's family planning program is hobbled as well, with the President preferring to keep silent about the population program. Elections are around the corner in 2004 and she's unwilling to antagonize conservative Catholic leaders.

The US government has cut back its support for family planning, thanks to a conservative Bush presidency. They're no longer supplying contraceptives to the Philippines, hoping our government will cough up its own funds for such purchases. This has not happened.

Not content with cutting back on American government programs, Bush last week vetoed a congressional allocation of $34 million for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), supposedly because it was supporting abortion in China. Never mind that the US government's own fact-finding team found no evidence to support that claim, filed by an American group opposed to family planning. Bush, with his own 2004 elections coming up, is also beholden to religious conservatives.

Decisions in Washington affect the lives of people everywhere. Expect more abortions. Expect more raids and Rambo-style television coverage. The Cytotec vendors just keep spreading out, creating a wider ring around the church in Quiapo. Maybe they'll eventually move out of the area, but word will spread and people will follow. There will be more long nights with Cytotec.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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Good governance and a 'strong Republic'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OVER the weekend, I read the full-page ad in the Philippine Star published by Picop president Teodoro Bernardino and the full-page rebuttal of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez. I can see why Alvarez is the object of a fierce demolition job from Bernardino and his chief ally, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay. But Alvarez could be fighting his last big battle in the DENR against big powerful vested interests, symbolized now by the powerful combination of money and pressure politics in the Bernardino-Pichay team. Public opinion could be Alvarez's last defense, judging from the way he has decided to bare all in his response.

Whether President Macapagal-Arroyo will support his crusade for good governance remains to be seen. At this point, the Palace's game is not clear, with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye being reported in yesterday's papers as "surmising" that Alvarez was on the way out. By the way, as press secretary, Bunye shouldn't "surmise," especially about the fate of a fellow Cabinet member. He should simply state the facts.

* * *

In his ad Bernardino said that Alvarez had defied President Macapagal's order last Oct. 11, 2001 telling him to immediately complete the process of automatic conversion of Picop's Timber License Agreement (TLA) No. 43 (which expired last April 2002) into an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma), as provided by the 1987 Constitution. The Picop president has insinuated in the media that Alvarez had tried to extort money during a one-on-one meeting they had and failing that, he was now unreasonably delaying the automatic conversion.

I note that this is the first time Bernardino has raised the extortion issue against Alvarez, although the Commission on Appointments' subcommittee on the environment has spent several weeks of hearings on Alvarez's confirmation. Bernardino had earlier warned President Macapagal that the continued delay would result in loss of jobs and economic dislocation for the 8,000 Picop employees and some 200,000 families in the concession area of the giant paper firm, loss of revenue for the government and deterioration of the forests there. Alarmed by this warning, GMA summoned Alvarez and Bernardino to the Palace to find a solution. Bernardino is now demanding the removal of the DENR secretary for his failure to do so.

* * *

In his reply, Alvarez labeled the extortion charge against him as absolutely baseless and "blackmail of the foulest sort." He said, "As God is my witness, I did not ask whatever from him except 'substantial compliance' with the law." Alvarez stressed that far from defying the President's verbal instructions, he had created a team to negotiate with Picop the terms, conditions and details of the new Ifma, including production-sharing arrangements with the government. But he said that for five whole months, Picop failed to respond to the invitation to sit down with the DENR and all of a sudden, in March 2002, it decided to do so.

In the meantime, Alvarez said, Pichay saw him a number of times to ask on behalf of Bernardino that the DENR give Picop an unconditional automatic conversion of the TLA and a presidential warranty, "in complete disregard of the law." This is a serious charge against Pichay, which the House ethics committee should look into. Did the congressman willfully and knowingly lobby on Bernardino's behalf to make DENR do something illegal?

* * *

Alvarez stressed that automatic conversion is allowed by DENR Administrative Order 99-53 "after proper evaluation" and provided the TLA holder has shown "satisfactory performance" and has complied with the terms of condition of the TLA and pertinent rules and regulation. But he said a conversion could not be automatically granted to Picop because it owed the government P37.36 million in forest charges/surcharges for logs produced in 2001 alone. In addition, an October 1998 report by the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau of the Department of Finance showed that Picop had violated forest laws and the provisions of its own Integrated Annual Operations Plans for 1996, 1997 and 1998, misdeclaring its log production and causing revenue losses to the government of at least P244.10 million, which has now grown to more than P470 million. Alvarez added that Bernardino acted in bad faith when he made it appear that Picop's 50-year corporate life continues, when in reality this had expired as of June 3, 2002 and has not been renewed. The SEC told Picop last July 16 that it must first pay the filing fee of P6 million before its corporate life could be renewed.

As for the presidential warranty, the DENR maintains that this Marcos relic has been superseded by the 1987 Constitution, and the President risks impeachment if she gives it.

* * *

Alvarez stressed that before the DENR would renew Picop's franchise it must first renew its corporate existence and settle its financial obligations to the government. But to avoid the accusation of disobeying the President's order to find a solution to the Picop problem and avert an economic crisis in that region of Mindanao, Alvarez said he even approved Picop's proposed transition development management plan, with a one-year grace period to allow it to settle its tax obligations and corporate existence. But definitely, stressed Alvarez, "blackmail cannot be the way."

In her State of the Nation Address, the President emphasized her goal of building a "strong Republic" by upholding good governance. In the Picop case she has a chance to demonstrate her sincerity in upholding good governance.

Messages that soaps transmit

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ADMITTEDLY, some of the folks behind the current wave of soap operas have tried to introduce innovations or at least depart from the conventions of the genre. In "Ang Mamahalin Ko ay Ikaw," the character portrayed by star Alice Dixson, who is making a comeback, is wonderfully shaded. For the first time in memory, the female lead in a soap opera is neither pristine in character nor motivated purely by noble aspirations. She is married with children, but feels stifled in the small mining town where everyone knows who she is and what she does. So she sets her sights on an engineer assigned to the mining project, using him to sponsor her flight to the big city where she meets up with nothing but grief.

In "Kung Mawawala Ka," the melodrama takes on political overtones not entirely irrelevant to our reality. Eddie Garcia plays an unscrupulous provincial governor who must contend with the warring members of his three families as well as with longtime political rivals. The last time I checked out this dysfunctional clan, both the governor's first wife and the mother of the governor's biggest rival (who was assassinated) were contesting his post. In the segment I caught, there was pithy commentary in the form of hilarious intercutting scenes showing the two matrons practicing their dancing and singing skills before plunging into the campaign. Elsewhere, as I said in previous columns, soaps reflect Philippine realities but employ a trick mirror that enlarges the more bizarre and histrionic aspects of life on these islands. Maybe living in the Philippines is one long soap opera.

* * *

EVELYN Opilas, the *balikbayan* reader (and media woman) from Australia, lists "hidden messages which promote stereotypes (that) are worrying for a country that is seeking to improve its image."

Some of these are:

- **The poor, orphans, women or children may be maltreated, exploited or beaten up.**
- **The 'privileged' status of spoiled brats in convent uniforms give them a 'right' to abuse household help.**
- **The justice system is inherently corrupt, with judges exacting a price for decisions, no matter that they are already paid from the public purse to do their job.**
- **Crime pays for the well-connected because they can lie in court, bribe judges, or connive with their opponents' lawyers and go scot-free.**
- **Men can beat up their wives and use alcohol as an excuse.**
- **Filipinos working/living overseas are always successful.**

"Why not indeed rethink the messages Philippine soaps put on offer?" asks Opilas. "The over-the-top junk that invades Filipino homes daily needs to refocus on character development and life improvement before negative values become a way of life for anyone who watches them."

Pat Sarenas, who used to sit as party-list representative of Abanse! Pinay in the House of Representatives, writes that she and her children make sure her granddaughter Kyra is in her room or out of hearing distance of the TV set whenever they sit down to watch the primetime soaps. "There is just too much fighting and cursing and evil and immoral twists (in the plot and dialogue)," writes Pat. And certainly, a two-and-a-half year-old, with "a mind like a sponge" can all too easily pick up the negative values and unsavory images projected by Madame Claudia et al.

* * *

LINA, who describes herself as "an avid PDI reader," airs similar concerns about the amount of violence and evil that permeates the primetime soaps.

"When I see so much violence in the TV news (which is) compounded by our local soaps, I just think of how the constant airing of violence affects the minds of the young kids when their own families watch such shows," writes Lina. Shouldn't the MTRCB more closely monitor the soaps especially since they're aired at primetime? she asks. And if producers and writers can think up such convoluted plots for the soaps, why can't they invest the same energy and creativity in shows that promote positive values?

Lina cites a show like "Seventh Heaven," which airs on Channel 23 (on Skycable). Centering on the lives of a pastor, his wife and their seven children, the show "has so much family values and virtues and every time I watch it, how I wish local TV producers would copy it," she says.

To illustrate, a recent episode "showed how each member realized his/her mistake, the children apologized to their mother, the husband apologized to the wife, the sister apologized to the rest of the family, etc. because the plot delved on how (members of) a family, without realizing it, may offend each other. So, in the end, the viewer would think, "*Oo nga, kung minsan na-o-offend ko rin si Mommy, hindi man lang ako nag-a-* apologize *sa kanya*." Isn't that much better than all those *sampalan*, and *sigawan* and *murahan*?"

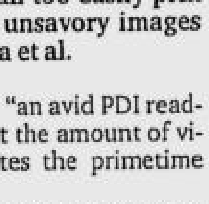
* * *

WELL, Lina, to be fair, local TV has tried "nice" on air. "Munting Paraiso," as I remember it, was also about a "regular" family struggling to cope with life issues, from boy-girl relationships to shattered friendships to the generation gap. Unfortunately, it was recently cancelled, although its replacement, "Tanging Yaman, the Series," promises to be just as "decent," although of a more melodramatic bent.

Makers of soaps, when criticisms are leveled against their excesses, say the "genre" demands extremes—extreme acting, extreme complexity of plot lines, extreme emotion. Maybe that's what makes a soap so compelling. Otherwise, we would all still be watching "Sta. Zita and Mary Rose."

Urban reality

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Bambi L. Harper

CITIES first appeared in the Middle East, and at the core of Islamic cities was Medina. A mass of buildings with little space in between, narrow winding pathways to deter an enemy's advance, stalls and stores jammed in streets and lanes—these were the urban forms that Europe adopted in the Middle Ages. Many of these structures, such as the bazaar in Damascus (said to be the oldest shopping "mall' in the world), still exist and are tremendous tourist attractions.

In this complex of buildings, many of which still exist in places like Turkey and Egypt, the palace and the mosques are distinguished from each other only by their decorative doors or magnificent entrances. Fountains were built not just for decorative value but as an integral part: they were necessary to alleviate the heat, give an impression of coolness and probably even for use in washing. (Note that Burnham's plan for Manila envisioned a city connected by parks and plazas with fountains.)

Early European cities followed the same plan, but with the advent of the Renaissance they began to open up. Spaces appeared between buildings in Italy and soon the rest of Europe followed. In this open space would be a plaza where people could gather and exchange the news (no doubt, both fiestas and public executions took place there as well). Part of the design that evolved was the inclusion of the cathedral or the church, the palaces and other important edifices around the area. This was not achieved willy-nilly but it followed an artistic principle: buildings around the plaza must have artistic merit, detailed decorations to ensure that these would be viewed from a perspective and evoke a sense of pride. Today many of these plazas are still in use in Europe and constitute one of the pleasures of walking through European cities and towns.

In Spain, the *plaza mayor* (as in all her colonies) is surrounded by buildings with artistic embellishments. Think of 19th century photos of the Binondo Plaza with El Oriente Hotel and the Victorian décor of La Germinal, the fountain and glorietta, the shade trees—manifestations of an urban concept dating back to the Renaissance—and you realize where the colonial plan of Manila came from.

America, on the other hand, had so much space that it had no need of narrow streets to deter invaders. Its cities were laid out in a more open pattern and houses were separated by front lawns and yards, especially by the 19th century—a design perhaps prompted in no small way by disastrous fires. While the plan of Burnham's Manila did not include a Main Street, people did stroll through the streets of Malate (a turn of the century development of American Henry Jones; hence the American names of the streets of old) and interacted with neighbors sitting on their front porch. We may have taken porches for granted, but the porches of Middle America only came in the latter part of the 19th century. (Other "new" inventions were the garage, sidewalks, street trees and garbage cans, which may explain why the last three are such rarities around here: We're just not used to them.)

What developed in America after World War II were "city of pods" composed of office parks, shopping centers and apartment and condominium centers, medical centers—all duly separated. No one really knows what the social consequences were of this separatist zoning. As one critic put it, "The genius and fundamental weakness of Los Angeles is that you rarely feel obliged to be part of anything. Nothing short of cataclysmic events like riots, earthquakes or a Lakers championship can ignite a strong sense of civic unity." Suffice it to say that it resulted in income segregating housing—a relatively new phenomenon. The results aren't in yet as to what kind of culture it has spawned.

While we know that the Escolta, for instance, was the main shopping area, few of us are aware that people actually lived there in their *bahay na bato*. There was not much difference in the design of a shop and a house then. Mansions of the wealthy coexisted beside ordinary houses for rent, usually consisting of several doors, called *accesorias*, under one common roof.

The gated community that Colonel McMicking designed for Makati was a copy of the new post-war American suburb. A replica of Los Angeles can be seen all over our subdivisions. Now while there will always be rich and poor and segregation will always exist whether by race or class, this is much more evident in what is called the "gated community." Good and bad neighborhoods have always existed but it is doubly obvious today, with the rich taking refuge behind their walls and guards.

Even within these developments, there are differences. Different clusters sell for different prices; what is really being sold is exclusivity. Your old part of town—Sta. Cruz, Quiapo, Malate, San Miguel—did not deliberately cater to elitism. According to a critic of this kind of development, each house comes with "bragging rights."

Again according to the same critic, these communities pay thousands in association dues that do not contribute to schools, parks or even the maintenance of roads except of course those within their subdivision. Civic consciousness remains at the barangay level. What this type of development does is isolate people.

But then it's not really new to us since it existed in Intramuros, the first of our gated communities where only the elite lived. Who would have thought we would go back to it after resenting its exclusivity with so much bile?

An activist son

YOUNG BLOOD

Mong Palatino

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I CAN still remember my father telling me not to join any fraternity or activist organization on my first day as a freshman at the University of the Philippines back in 1996. He was very convincing with his warning: I would end up as a dead meat if I became a member of the first, and a heartless, godless communist by joining the second.

Of course, my father was exaggerating. But I could not blame him for thinking that way since many Filipinos had the same false impressions about the two distinct organizations.

By the time I graduated from UP two years ago, I was an active member of the most radical student organization on campus and a full-fledged member of a young fraternity.

It was quite easy to make my father understand that I ended up disobeying his order not because I was rebelling against him. What he cannot completely understand to this day is why I am still very passionately involved in militant causes.

I love describing to my friends the look of shock and unbelief on my father's face the day he found out I had become an activist. One quiet Sunday evening, I appeared for the family dinner wearing a white T-shirt with the portraits of Marx, Lenin and Mao staring at my father and the fighting words "Workers of the world unite!" He thought it was just a cheap shirt I bought in Baguio's famous *ukay-ukay*, so he convinced himself and my mother that I would never really be a member of any radical student group. Later that evening when my elder sister was going over her macroeconomics textbook, I handed to her the Shanghai book on socialist economy and planning, much to her chagrin and that of my parents.

The next few months saw me undergoing rigorous training and maturing as an activist as well as the continuing self-denial of my parents that their eldest son had indeed become one. My mother once told me in an amused tone of voice that it was amazing to see her son on television holding a red flag and shouting for change, but it was completely different to see him being dragged out of the House of Representatives by the marines and police for disrupting the session. My younger brother did not talk to me for a long time after our group held a lightning rally in front of the US Embassy on the very same day he was scheduled for an interview on his visa application, forcing the embassy staff to close for the day.

Once, I overheard my father telling my mother that I was just passing through a phase in life. Sooner or later, he said, I would outgrow my idealism and realize the opportunities that I missed.

But when it became obvious that my chosen "vocation" was not just a "temporary insanity," as my sister called it, my father and I had a serious talk about my life and future. He told me that when he was my age, pimples and safe sex were the only things he had to worry about. Then he asked why I wanted so much to carry the heavy burden of trying to oust the President, not to mention the many other problems of society.

I wanted to laugh after listening to him, but the probing, sober look on his face prevented me from doing so.

Next my relatives would come for a visit and try to convince me that I was a victim of some kind of indoctrination and was being used to help advance a sinister political agenda. A policeman-uncle of mine never failed to remind me that crooked traditional politicans were funding the activities of our organizations. But it was my cousin and best friend in the family who had the most humorous insight into what everyone in the family considered to be an odd direction my life had taken. My cousin began by pointing out that we had grown up together in the same neighborhood, eaten the same food and taken the same vitamins when we were young. We had attended the same Catholic school in elementary, played the same sports and watched the same television shows. So, he asked, how did I wind up being communist?

Looking back, I think I am partly to blame for my family's lack of appreciation for my being an activist. I never bothered to sit down with them and explain carefully the nobility of what I am doing. I never made them see how much fulfillment I derive from being an activist. I wanted to tell them that the most sincere and truest persons I have ever known in my life I met in the student movement. I found the woman I will love forever in our organization. I have chosen "the road less travelled" not because of some flimsy reason or emotional weakness on my part, but because I firmly believe that it is the right thing to do.

I will forever be grateful for the love and warm affection my family has generously showered on me since I was a child. Without this love, I would never have become part of any movement seeking to make our present society a better one. It is the joy of being loved that moves a person to give love. I know that behind the fear, irritation and frustration my parents feel concerning my decision to become an activist is the deep and comforting love only parents can bear for their child. They may not always say it, but I know and I feel my family is proud of what I am doing.

Mong Palatino, 22, joined the UP Center for Nationalist Studies in 1997.

THEY SAID

God provides

"It just happened. When you're in the will of God, He provides everything that you need."

—Ronald Ernest Fable of his center that takes care of abandoned children

Politics within PNP

"Politics existing within the highest echelon of the Philippine National Police is beyond comprehension."

—Sen. Rodolfo Biazon calling for an investigation on the escape of kidnapping suspects which was said to be an inside job

Rebuffing Lina

"Go ahead, try us and maybe we will give him a dose of his own medicine."

—Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz to Interior Sec. Jose Lina who said he would impose sanctions on local officials who fail to curb jueteng

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Sovereignty, security cannot be compromised

THE SUCCESSIVE announcements of three developments—all having to do with RP-US relations—may have given President Macapagal-Arroyo great satisfaction. But for the Filipino people these developments bode ill. They are liable to sink the Philippines deeper into the quagmire of the US "war on terror," especially because of what European allies decry as the increasing US "unilateralism"—the tendency to decide alone on the conduct of such a war.

First, the US-RP Mutual Defense Board endorsed a five-year work plan to transform the Balikatan 02-1 joint military exercises into a "sustained program of security cooperation and counter-terrorism training and assistance."

Second, US President George Bush ordered the release of $10 million as "immediate counter-terrorism assistance" to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to meet an "unforeseen emergency" that was not specified.

And third, Vice President Teofisto Guingona resigned as foreign secretary to set aside "honest difference of opinion on policy" and yield to the President as the "chief architect of foreign policy."

The first raises questions about the parameters of such security operation program, their implications on Philippine sovereignty and national security. The second may relate to the pending approval of the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangements. The last has pleased Ms Macapagal and Bush because Guingona provided probably the lone, though not assertive enough, opposition in the Cabinet to the US designs.

Although the MDB plan will be submitted to the two governments for review and consideration, it is a foregone conclusion that it will be approved. Moreover, the MDB said the plan "will continue to be reviewed and updated annually through the MDB process." Meaning it will be adjusted to what direction the US war on terror develops, such as the policy, enunciated by Bush on June 1, of "preemptive attack" on suspected enemies anywhere.

By tying itself to such a plan, the government will imperil the Philippines by being dragged into every preemptive attack—or war—the United States may decide to launch against any enemy. That target may not be an enemy of the Philippines.

The MLSA assumes importance to the US preemptive attack policy, as it can provide convenient storage of US war materiel and other facilities for launching a preemptive attack from the Philippines.

Could the "unforeseen emergency" that impelled Bush to order the release of $10 million to the Armed Forces of the Philippines be related to the MLSA approval? When US Defense Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz visited the country, he pledged more aid if the Philippine government hastened the approval of the MLSA. Bush may be redeeming that pledge.

The MLSA is objectionable because, like the "terms of reference" of the Balikatan exercises, it extends the parameters of military activities defined in the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty or the RP-US Military Assistance Agreement and beyond the provisions of the 1987 Constitution. It clearly aims to apply in "operations and deployments outside the purview of the Mutual Defense Treaty."

The resignation of Guingona as foreign secretary may have removed the semblance of dissent or debate within the administration over these issues. But it does not efface—in fact the resignation enhances—the urgency of thoroughly advancing the mass movement opposed to US military presence in the Philippines.

The issues of sovereign and national security cannot be compromised, and the government cannot just set aside these primordial national concerns.

—SATUR OCAMPO, president, Bayan Muna, 28
Magiting Road, Teachers' Vill.,
Diliman, Quezon City

Funds for titling of ancestral lands

THIS refers to the news item, entitled "Agency says it can't meet targets," last July 9, 2002. We would like to make a clarification in order to put the statements of NCIP Commissioner Edtami Mansayagan in the proper context. It is hoped that this will also respond to the letter of Omi Royandoyan of the Philippine Peasant Institute entitled "Misplaced presidential ire." (PDI, 7/17/02)

Mansayagan said that in her State of the Nation Address last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo included the distribution of 100 Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles to indigenous peoples among her targets. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) later on identified this target for IPs as 50 certificates of ancestral domain title and 50 certificates of ancestral land covering close to 800,000 hectares and requiring a total budget of P450 million. The President had ordered the budget department to include this amount in the budget of the NCIP for 2002, but, it was too late since the proposed national budget was already in Congress.

To remedy the situation the President ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on March 5, 2002 to set aside P55 million from its own funds for the survey and titling of ancestral domains. But the target number of CADTS had to be downscaled to the titling of at least 100,000 hectares before the end of 2002.

For the record, the DENR and NCIP have met several times to discuss how the funds can be transferred to the NCIP. Finally, in his letter dated June 26, 2002, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez informed the NCIP that "there is an available Sona budget in the amount of P15,000,000 which could be utilized by the NCIP..for CADT processing/issuance and monitoring and evaluation of ancestral titling activities."

Also in support of ancestral domains titling, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) accessed P20 million from the Presidential Social Fund and released the amount to the NCIP last June 14, 2002. Last June 25, 2002, the DBM also released to the NCIP the amount of P14,110,000 which was sourced from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) pursuant to Sec. 71 of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 providing for the creation of a special fund to be known as the Ancestral Domains Fund.

Even prior to these recent fund releases, the NCIP had actually started cultural mapping activities, genealogical studies, census updating, community organizing boundary conflict-resolution and other social assessment activities in target ancestral domain areas. These activities are part of the process of delineating, surveying and titling of ancestral domain claims. The time frame for all these vary from claim to claim depending on the preparedness of the community, the presence of conflicts, size and terrain of the domains, and the peace and order situation, among others.

The NCIP is set to approve the CADT application of the Kankanaey IPs of Bakun in Benguet Province. It also hopes to issue more CADTs covering at least 100,000 hectares of ancestral domain claims by October this year which is Indigenous Peoples' Month in the Philippines.

—EVELYN S. DUNUAN, chair, National
Commission on Indigenous Peoples, 2nd Flr.,
D&E Bldg., cor. Roces and Quezon Avenue, QC

Keeping faith with the President

THE NATION is beset with all sorts of serious problems: slow economic growth, subversion, terrorism and illegal drugs, crime and corruption and climate change aggravated by our ignorance and indifference to environmental degradation.

Amid all this, President Macapagal-Arroyo still must contend with the current political logjam. She must break this deadlock, hold the center, and move the nation forward.

Let us have faith in her commitment to uphold the national interest. At this time nitpicking and indulging in false amor propio is doing the country a disservice.

"Kalampagin ang Konsiyensiyang Kinakalawang" (KKK) sympathizes with her. How does a leader harmonize all sectors with competing demands, including the need to mitigate intransigent and violent opposition, without compromising her avowed program of good governance and call for moral revolution?

The forum attended by a good number of Cabinet members led by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo was a sincere gesture on the part of the President. By her gesture, she affirmed the value of civil society and recognized the need for clearing up misunderstanding, for sustaining a bridge of continuing dialogue, and for crystallizing the truth and forging national cooperation. We agree with her that honest differences can be resolved without providing fodder for media spin, disinformation, destabilization and smear drives by the enemies of the state. The spirit of goodwill and trust must be harnessed. The alternative is interminable conflict, paralysis and decline.

More than ever, the President needs our understanding and support in our common fight against poverty and pollution. She has shown her honest resolve to win this war. Let us offer prayers and our creative energies for the common good. Let us pray for the end of conflicting personal agendas so that caring and sacrifice may prevail to strengthen our Edsa People Power heritage of restored freedom and democracy.

We at the KKK pledge to President Arroyo our solid support. Like her, we pray for an end to political bickering and for unity towards peace, social justice and sustainable prosperity for our people.

—CECILE GUIDOTE-ALVAREZ, SR. ARNOLD MARIE NOEL,
SSp.S, MSGR. NICO BAUTISTA, CARLO ANTONIO BERNABE
Kalampagin Konsiyensiyang Kinakalawang

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Much ado over nothing

SOME people, mostly politicians, are up in arms over US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone's remarks about widespread corruption in the Philippines.

While it may be true that a foreign ambassador is not the right person to point this out, let us for once be honest and admit that his observation hit the nail right on the head! Truth may really hurt but no amount of denial, protestation and sentimental show of wounded pride on our part can negate the simple, glaring fact that corruption indeed is a cancer that has long pervaded Filipino society.

If we could not put an end to corruption—through our decades-long pretense that it does not even exists—then this foreign envoy's admonition might just be what the doctor prescribed! If a slap on our collective face is what it takes to wake us up from our national stupor, then what's the harm done?

It is very noticeable that the strongest reactions to the US envoy's observation are coming mostly from politicians! They are making frenzied protestations in the name of nationalism, and in the process merely manifest their guilty conscience. After all, most of the corruption in the country are caused by these con artists masquerading as politicians.

Wasting our precious time and energy reacting to Ricciardone's observations won't bring us anywhere. Better if we take his observation as a challenge and a clarion call for much needed reform to curb endemic corruption and transform Philippine society.

—WILFREDO
DEREQUITO,
fred0953@yahoo.com

Quiapo, Washington, Cytotec

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE HIDDEN camera takes a long shot of the Quiapo vendor, then zooms in on her necklace—"proof," as far as the TV show's host is concerned, that she has made lots of money selling the abortifacient Cytotec.

The whole operation, including the hidden cameras, is part of a set-up, organized by a television channel and the police to trap the vendor. An "asset" buys the tablets and a few minutes later, the police move in to arrest the vendors. The camera follows their interrogation in a police vehicle. The policeman curses the women several times, the invectives beeped out for the desired dramatic effect. At the end of the segment, the commentator, in dark sunglasses and standing in front of an Army-type vehicle, booms: "We'll keep coming back for you."

Every few weeks some "investigative journalist" has to pick up on the Cytotec issue, as if it were something new. The police storm Quiapo, make a few arrests and disperse the vendors. Shortly afterwards, sometimes within a few days, the stalls are back.

The mass media's coverage of Cytotec is hypocritical, pretending to be part of a morality campaign but, like all of moralism, ends up capitalizing on people's despair and misery. There are little or no attempts to explain why abortion occurs in the first place, or what this Cytotec is.

Cytotec's generic name is misoprostol, which is different from mifepristone or RU-486, the "abortion pill" approved in the United States in 2000. Cytotec was available, legally, for many years in the Philippines as a drug to prevent gastrointestinal bleeding in people taking certain arthritis drugs. But Cytotec's package inserts also warned about an important side effect: it causes the uterus to contract and therefore should not be taken by pregnant women.

That side effect eventually became Cytotec's main indication, for which it has been sold for many years now, in front of the Quiapo church, together with herbal preparations to "bring back the menstruation" (*pamparegla*). Cytotec's local distributor eventually withdrew the drug but it's now smuggled in illegally from neighboring countries and is sold underground in many of the Philippines' major cities.

In the United States, Cytotec is used in combination with other abortifacients for pregnancies up to seven weeks. Women are first given either RU486, or the drug methotrexate, which starts the abortion. A few days later Cytotec is administered to complete the abortion. The combination of the two drugs, administered under medical supervision, is safe and effective.

The latest edition of "Managing Contraception," an American publication giving updated information on family planning methods, advises against using misoprostol alone because it does not always lead to a complete abortion. The book notes that there are other "safe alternative regimens."

But in the Philippines, women have to contend with misoprostol, bought off Quiapo and administered at home without medical advice or supervision. Vendors claim Cytotec will work in pregnancies of up to three or four months. Each dose of several tablets can run up to several hundred pesos, but this is still cheaper than the thousands of pesos charged by clandestine clinics for surgical abortion. Only the herbal concoctions are cheaper, but the vendors themselves will tell you they're not very effective. Safety? Cytotec has its risks but it is certainly much safer than using improvised catheters—a hanger, for example.

The media people have a field day with their cameras, aware of the ironies surrounding the Cytotec trade in Quiapo. This is the heart of Manila, a city whose mayor has banned artificial contraception from all government centers. Housing the Black Nazarene, the Quiapo church is also a spiritual center of the city. Cytotec is actually sold together with amulets, rosaries and other religious items.

I wouldn't be surprised if women did in fact buy a prayer book to go with the Cytotec. They're not sure how the drug works, if it works. The instructions, scribbled on pad paper, and varying according to the stage of pregnancy and the vendor, are cold and cryptic: Drink X tablets. Lie down. Put X tablets in your vagina. Do not stand until the next morning. Do not eat anything sour.

The vendors don't always explain the possible side effects, which can range from mild cramps to bleeding and infections. An incomplete abortion, or heavy bleeding, can be serious enough to require hospitalization. It can be a long, harrowing night of waiting, of uncertainty, of praying.

But all these illegal abortions are going to continue as long as women can't access information and services for family planning. The Catholic Church says we should stick to natural family planning but there are few parishes with such programs in place. The government's family planning program is hobbled as well, with the President preferring to keep silent about the population program. Elections are around the corner in 2004 and she's unwilling to antagonize conservative Catholic leaders.

The US government has cut back its support for family planning, thanks to a conservative Bush presidency. They're no longer supplying contraceptives to the Philippines, hoping our government will cough up its own funds for such purchases. This has not happened.

Not content with cutting back on American government programs, Bush last week vetoed a congressional allocation of $34 million for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), supposedly because it was supporting abortion in China. Never mind that the US government's own fact-finding team found no evidence to support that claim, filed by an American group opposed to family planning. Bush, with his own 2004 elections coming up, is also beholden to religious conservatives.

Decisions in Washington affect the lives of people everywhere. Expect more abortions. Expect more raids and Rambo-style television coverage. The Cytotec vendors just keep spreading out, creating a wider ring around the church in Quiapo. Maybe they'll eventually move out of the area, but word will spread and people will follow. There will be more long nights with Cytotec.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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80,000 Filipinos face arrest

By B. Rivera

AROUND 80,000 undocumented Filipinos in Malaysia face arrest and whipping if they fail to avail of the amnesty being offered by the Malaysian government until tomorrow.

Welfare officer Felma Rasuman said only 20,000 Filipinos have come out in the open and sought the Philippine Embassy's assistance in facilitating their travel documents.

In a report to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Rasuman said that despite last-ditch efforts to encourage undocumented Filipinos to take advantage of the amnesty, many continue to hide.

She said that these Filipinos are in danger of facing harsher penalties when the new provisions of the Malaysian Immigration Act of 1953 take effect on Aug. 1.

Under the new provisions, illegal entrants and their employers would be fined a huge amount and jailed for as long as five years. They also face lashes if arrested.

The Owwa expressed fears that the government would no longer have any reason to intervene in behalf of any undocumented Filipinos that would be caught after the amnesty.

The Owwa had earlier said that there are 100,000 undocumented workers in Malaysia, many of whom are in Sabah, Penang, Johor Bahru, Sarawak and Labuan.

The undocumented Filipinos had entered Malaysia as documented workers but have continued to stay even if their contracts and work permits have expired due to lack of jobs in the Philippines.

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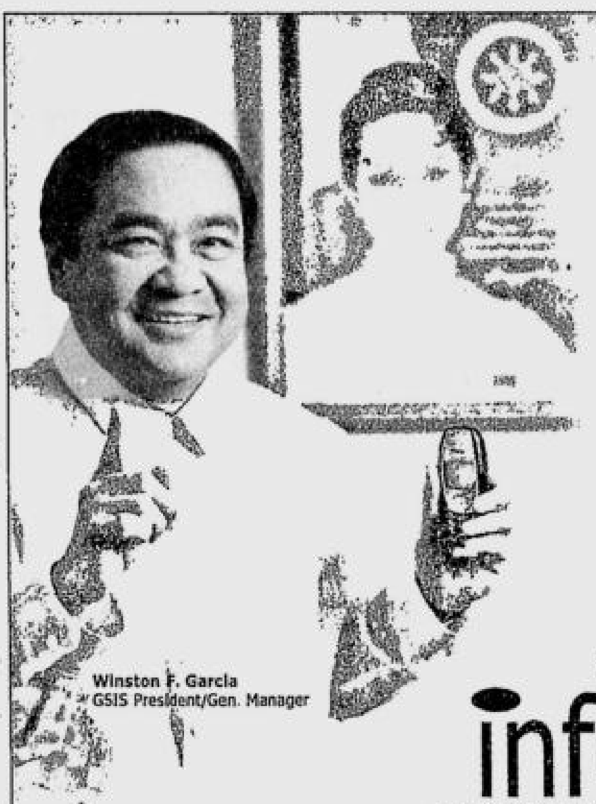

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Girl's killing dampens hope of reviving Mideast talks

JERUSALEM—Israel's defense minister said on Monday he hoped to hold security talks with Palestinians in the next few days, but the killing of a teenaged Palestinian girl only hours before dented hopes of reviving dialogue.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer's comment on Army radio followed a decision by Israel on Sunday to ease some restrictions on Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and an announcement by the United States that it plans talks with the Palestinians this week.

The resumption of talks has raised hopes of a breakthrough to stem the bloodshed but any optimism has been tempered by new violence, including the killing of a 13-year-old Palestinian girl by rampaging Jewish settlers on Sunday.

"This week I expect to start security contacts with the Palestinian leadership," Ben-Eliezer said, suggesting talks could begin with Palestinian Interior Minister Abdel Razzak al-Yahya or another official of similar rank on Monday or Tuesday.

"I hope it will go well. Then it will be possible to say that we are starting in a direction which we might expect will bring stability in the area." There was no immediate comment from Palestinian leaders.

They welcomed the resumption of talks between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian moderates earlier this month following a four-month freeze, but both sides say they are not peace talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has ruled out peace talks in the near future. But he announced plans on Sunday to ease restrictions in the West Bank where troops have 700,000 Palestinians under curfew following a wave of suicide bombings. *Reuters*

14 killed in Russian jet crash

RUSSIAN emergency workers stop to look at a passing plane while sifting through the wreckage of a Russian Ilyushin Il-86 passenger plane belonging to Pulkovo Airline that crashed on takeoff from Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on July 28. REUTERS

MOSCOW—Authorities examined flight data recorders Monday from the wreckage of a wide-bodied Russian jet that slammed into a forest outside Moscow just after taking off with only the crew aboard, killing 14 people. Two flight attendants survived the crash.

The Pulkovo airlines Il-86 passenger jet was returning to its home airport in St. Petersburg after a flight from the Black Sea resort of Sochi when it crashed just after taking off from Sheremetyevo-1 airport. The pilots did not have time to tell controllers there was a problem, aviation officials said.

The plane hit the ground so hard that its front section was unrecognizable amid the blackened wreckage except for a wall of fuselage, but two flight attendants who were in the tail section survived the crash Sunday afternoon and were taken to Moscow hospitals.

All four cockpit crew members and 10 flight attendants were killed, officials said. Work to find and identify the bodies was slow because of the destruction, but officials at Russia's Interstate Aviation Committee said the "black box" data recorders were found in good condition, the Interfax news agency reported.

The plane crashed about 200 meters from the runway, authorities said. The site is not far from the Dmitrov highway northwest of Moscow, which at the time was crowded with traffic as Muscovites headed home from a hot summer weekend at their dachas.

Maxim Khmelov, 13, was at a nearby beach with a friend trying to cool off on the clear, sunny day when he saw the Il-86 nose down and then bank before hitting the ground, sending up a plume of smoke went up "like a mushroom cloud."

The crash came a day after another Soviet-era plane, an Su-27 fighter jet, plowed through a crowd of spectators at an air show in western Ukraine, killing at least 83 people.

In a ditch among birches and bushes outside Moscow, smoke rose from the smoldering wreckage of the Il-86 long after the flames were out.

About 100 Army conscripts in camouflage helped comb the crash site for bits of debris in the investigation Sunday, and officials from the Russian Security Service—wearing black vests emblazoned with the agency's Russian initials FSB—were also at the scene. *AP*

Ukraine president sacks top officials following weekend air show disaster

LVIV, Ukraine—Ukraine prepared for a mass outpouring of grief on Monday at a memorial service on the airfield where 83 people were killed when a fighter jet cartwheeled into a crowd of spectators at a weekend air show.

Some families will start burying their dead as Ukranians observe an official day of mourning.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, seeking to apportion blame for the world's worst air show disaster, sacked or detained several top military officials following Saturday's crash.

In the first arrests, the prosecutor general of the ex-Soviet state detained Ukraine's former Air Force commander and other top military officials, saying "serious errors" in preparing the air show had contributed to the deaths.

There were "serious errors in organizing, preparing and conducting flights, in particular organizing demonstration flights in Lviv," his office said.

Kuchma sacked the country's Air Force commander Volodymyr Strelnykov on Saturday and moved swiftly a day later to fire the country's acting defense minister, Petro Shulyak. He declared Monday would be a day of national mourning.

The head of the state commission into the accident said there were two possible reasons for the crash, which injured more than a hundred people—negligence among the top military ranks or plane failure.

Most analysts say spectators at the show should not have been allowed to sit or stand in any of the plane's flight paths.

But the moves were unlikely to provide much comfort for the relatives of those who died in the crash, those who were sitting at the bedsides of the injured, or other Ukrainians tired of hearing about accidents and death in their country.

Three weeks ago, 35 miners died in a colliery fire, then two weeks later a further six were killed in a methane gas explosion hundreds of meters below the ground at another coal mine.

Only last year, the military's reputation was blackened when a missile fired during a training exercise hit a Russian airliner, killing all 78 people on board. *Reuters*

Boats only means of transport in flooded Bangladesh villages

SHAKTIPUR, Bangladesh—The nearly 4,000 residents of Shaktipur have resorted to wooden boats and banana tree rafts to get around since floodwaters severed their village from the main road.

The regionwide flooding, fed by monsoon rains, has killed 445 people in Bangladesh, Nepal and India this month, stranded or displaced 12.5 million and made life more burdensome for uncounted others along the pathways of the region's rivers.

Floods during the monsoon season are annual events in South Asia, and Bangladesh, a nation of 130 million people, is hit by devastating floods and cyclones every few years.

Dr. Shahidul Islam of Shaktipur now commutes to his medical practice by boat over flooded rice fields to a roadside spot where he leaves his motorcycle for the final leg to neighboring Shazadpur, 105 km northeast of the capital Dhaka.

"Boats are now the only available transport in our flooded village," said Islam, 54.

Many village men, who in normal times work as farm hands or weavers, have been ferrying people in boats for as little as 2 takas (less than one cent) per trip since the floods began this month.

"I have been making enough money to buy food for my family. The flood has pushed up the price of food and I have been unable to work," said Narayan Biswas, 28, a weaver and father of three small children.

Tin and bamboo houses built atop mounds of earth, and half-submerged trees and electric poles dot the countryside in Shaktipur, now turned into a vast sea of gray by the overflowing Korotoa River.

The highest death toll has been in Nepal, where mudslides have swept away villages, killing 240. In India's Bihar state, 85 people have been killed and 5 million washed out of their homes or stranded. Another seven have died in India's Assam state.

In Bangladesh, where floodwaters have covered a third of the low-lying delta country, at least half of the 90 victims have died from drowning, and the others from diarrhea, a waterborne disease.

The flooding—deemed the worst in four years—has submerged or washed away thousands of tin, bamboo or straw houses, and damaged flood barriers, roads and bridges. Vast areas of crop land also have been inundated. *AP*

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Have positive view about aging and live longer

WASHINGTON—Older people can literally think themselves into the grave by feeling bad about getting old, researchers said on Sunday.

People who said they had more positive views about aging lived an average 7.6 years longer than those with negative perceptions, the researchers report in the August issue of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, published by the American Psychological Association.

How one feels about getting old is more important even than having low blood pressure or cholesterol, said the researchers led by psychologist Becca Levy of Yale University.

"The effect of more positive self-perceptions of aging on survival is greater than the physiological measures of low systolic blood pressure and cholesterol, each of which is associated with a longer lifespan of four years or less," Levy's team wrote.

"It is also greater than the independent contributions of lower body mass index, no history of smoking, and a tendency to exercise, each of these factors has been found to contribute between one and three years of added life."

The researchers looked at a survey of 660 Ohio residents aged 50 and older who took part in the Ohio Longitudinal Study of Aging and Retirement as far back as 23 years.

Some of the questions, which have a yes or no answer, included, "As you get older, you are less useful."

"Our study carries two messages. The discouraging one is that negative self-perceptions can diminish life expectancy. The encouraging one is that positive self-perceptions can prolong life expectancy," said the researchers, whose work was funded by the National Institute on Aging. *Reuters*

Miner tells of dark days waiting

SOMERSET, Pennsylvania—Trapped 73 meters underground in a flooded mine for three days, one thought kept creeping back into Blaine Mayhugh's mind: He didn't kiss his wife goodbye before he left for work.

As more than 150 rescue workers and neighbors above ground struggled to reach them, he and eight other coal miners fought to keep their heads above the cold water, huddled together for warmth, and hoped.

"It was the only day in my life I never kissed my wife before I went to work. It had to be the day," he said Sunday, breaking down into sobs as he stood with his arms around his wife, Leslie.

In a rescue that transfixed the United States, all nine miners were pulled safely from the Quecreek Mine in rural western Pennsylvania after water from an abandoned mine flooded the shaft where they were working.

A desperate rescue operation with tons of heavy equipment and 18 medical helicopters finally paid off when rescuers reached the miners Sunday morning and pulled them up a narrow shaft, one by one, in a yellow cylindrical capsule.

"What took you guys so long?" the miners said when they spoke to rescuers for the first time. They reportedly asked for chewing tobacco and beer—which doctors wouldn't allow. And they were ravenously hungry.

At the rescue site, workers cheered and danced, and the Sipesville Fire Hall, where the families of the men had been gathering, burst into celebration at the news they were all alive.

As each was slowly raised, one by one, through the narrow hole in a 7-foot-tall yellow cage, at least two gave a thumbs up. Their coal-covered faces managed smiles. Rescuers greeted them with applause and shouted out nicknames.

Underground, Mayhugh described a nightmarish scene: The men tied themselves together so they would "live or die as a group." On Thursday, when the water in the shaft was rising, he asked his boss for a pen.

"I said, 'I want to write my wife and kids to tell them I love them,'" said Mayhugh, choking back tears.

"Everybody had strong moments," he said. "At any certain time maybe one guy got down, and then the rest pulled together and then that guy would get back up and maybe somebody else would feel a little weaker. But it was a team effort. That's the only way it could've been."

All nine were immediately taken to local hospitals; six were released on Sunday. Three remained hospitalized, including Randy Fogle, who has a history of heart problems and complained of chest pains while in the mine.

One of the miners was briefly in a decompression chamber after experiencing early symptoms of the bends, an excruciating condition caused by sudden changes in pressure, said Dr. Russell Dumire, a trauma surgeon at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, where six of the men were taken.

Also under observation was Mayhugh's father-in-law, Thomas Foy, 51. *AP*

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Chavit offers ₱500,000 prize for killers of Ilocos auditor

VIGAN CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson is giving an additional P500,000 reward to anyone who could provide information on the nine-month-old ambush-slaying of provincial auditor Agustin Chan Jr.

"I am offering P500,000 to anybody who could help authorities in solving the crime to avoid the notion that I am covering it up," Singson said in an interview aired over Bombo Radyo-Vigan.

On Oct. 4 last year, Chan and his driver were killed in an ambush along the national highway in Barangay Paing in Bantay town. They were on their way to Baguio City.

Singson's offer raised the reward money to P1 million after the provincial government and provincial board each promised P200,000 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the killers.

The Ilocos Sur Mayors' League pledged P100,000.

Singson also agreed to sign a letter prepared by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Ilocos Sur chapter and the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) asking the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct an "unbiased investigation" of Chan's murder.

"(I have) no problem with that. (I will sign the letter to) clear my name," he said.

Earlier, Singson said he received information that a former Ilocos Sur town mayor was suspected to be behind the killing of Chan and his driver.

"We have already some leads linking a former Ilocos Sur mayor, who was having problems on the unfavorable findings of the Commission on Audit," Singson said.

But Sisa dismissed Singson's theory, claiming that it was a "diversionary tactic."

Earlier reports had linked Singson to the killing. On the day he was ambushed, Chan issued a tracer letter asking Singson to liquidate P224 million in funds that were released during Singson's term as Ilocos Sur governor, Sisa said.

The funds have not been liquidated until the time of Chan's death.

Sisa lawyer Estelita Cordero said the group decided to publicly disclose the records, which they got from the provincial COA, to shed light on the Chan murder case.

Singson had denied any involvement in the killing.

"I am not that stupid," he earlier told the INQUIRER. "If in case I have problems with the COA, I could have settled it. I have been in politics for decades I should know already how to solve such problems."

"What is clear is that I am being dragged into the case by the Sisa officers because they are being paid to do it," he added.

Sisa had been accused earlier of being funded by the camp of ousted President Joseph Estrada to pin Singson down on the murder.

Cordero challenged Singson not to use his influence and meddle in the case.

"The investigators should invite the former governor for questioning, considering that Chan uncovered multimillion-peso anomalies during his term as governor," Cordero said.

Last month, Sisa and other civic groups put up posters in the province's public areas to drum up the campaign seeking justice for Chan's murder.

The posters, according to Sisa members, would remind the people of Ilocos Sur that "the brains (in the murder) and assassins" of Chan and his driver "remain at large and the case remains unsolved." *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DAR chief invites running priest to check CARP data

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza yesterday defended the land distribution statistics of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, inviting running priest Fr. Robert Reyes to personally check the figures.

In a statement, Braganza asked Reyes to visit the offices of his department and the Land Registration Authority (LRA) to personally verify the data.

Braganza said Father Reyes has apparently fallen victim to a disinformation campaign launched by the nongovernment organization Task Force Mapalad when he questioned the claim of President Macapagal-Arroyo that her administration distributed 250,000 hectares of land under the agrarian reform program.

"I hope Father Robert can visit the DAR offices so he can check the veracity of our accomplishment report in land acquisition and distribution. Our records are open and he is very much welcome to see them for himself," Braganza said.

"He (Father Reyes) may also visit the offices of the LRA so he can check one by one the Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) that we have distributed and registered on behalf of the farmer-beneficiaries," the DAR chief added.

The DAR has reported that it was able to distribute 104,261 hectares of land under the agrarian reform program in year 2001, exceeding the target of 100,000 hectares set by the President in her State-of-the-Nation Address.

The DENR, on the other hand, reported that it has distributed more than 150,000 hectares of public land under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) last year.

"We wish to inform Father Robert and other critics of DAR that the 250,000 hectares mentioned by the President in her latest SONA reflect the accomplishment of both the DAR and the DENR in land distribution," Braganza said.

"DAR is the lead implementor of CARP but we also have partner agencies such as the DENR, which is mandated to distribute public lands under the agrarian reform program," he added.

Braganza expressed disappointment that Father Reyes chose to question the accomplishment report of the Arroyo administration in land distribution without getting the facts first.

Braganza said he is standing by figures which showed that Negros Occidental was no. 1 in land distribution last year.

"There is no sacred cow in CARP implementation," Braganza said.

On the landholdings of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his relatives in central Negros Occidental, Braganza said these had already been covered by CARP.

He said portions of the land had been distributed. *With reports from Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Contractors say '99 percent' of politicos get kickbacks

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The head of an organization of contractors in Bohol has claimed that "99 percent" of politicians demand a 10-percent commission in projects that they undertake for government agencies.

Engineer Petronilo Sarigumba, president of the Bohol

Builders and Contractors Association, however, declined to identify these politicians, saying their identities were "immaterial."

He earlier presented eight issues which Boholano contractors denounced. Topping the list was corruption.

Sarigumba said in an interview over Tagbilaran City-based radio station dyRD that politicians had become more brazen in demanding for "commissions" on projects.

"The demand for 10 percent was very vocal. This did not happen in the past administration," Sarigumba told the radio station in the local dialect.

"What makes it more callous is that the 10 percent demanded must be given in cash as soon as the project is awarded," he added.

Sarigumba also complained of an agreement with LGUs that make it difficult for LGUs to implement their own projects. LGUs should be financially sound and should have manpower and equipment to undertake projects.

Just the same, the projects are awarded to the LGUs by the district engineer because of the dictates of politicians.

Sarigumba also said big projects are not advertised but simply given to those with existing contracts.

"We believe there is (an) underground (agreement)," Sarigumba said.

The contractors also complained that certain politicians would bring in Manila and Cebu contractors.

"They bring in people from Cebu and Manila because they believe that they (contractors) can provide their (politicians') cash requirements," he said.

Sarigumba complained that provincial governments award provincial road maintenance to favored contractors, while some contractors were unable to get projects.

He said there was a possible irregularity in the case of one contract that was awarded without bidding because it reached P3 million. Commission on Audit rules require bidding for projects exceeding P3 million.

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Car crash kills boy, hurts 3

BACOLOD CITY—An 11-year-old boy died and three teenagers were injured on Saturday when the car driven by a 15-year-old turned turtle in Bacolod, Negros Occidental.

The fatality was identified as Ulic Nichol Alvarez. His three companions—Miracle Martinez, 19; Katrina Marie Segovia, 15; and April Tiongco, 13, suffered injuries in their bodies.

The car, an old model Volkswagen Beetle driven by 15-year-old Rexel Viaje, was overtaking a tractor-trailer along Feliza Road when the accident occurred.

The youngsters were on their way home after attending a gathering with fellow members of the Singles for Christ, a Catholic group of single men and women and counterpart of the Couples for Christ.

Police investigators said Viaje did not have a license to drive. The teenager was temporarily detained.

Viaje, police said, was released on Sunday after a complaint had been filed against him. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cops, hospital staff face probe for neglect of girl who was raped

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Some city policemen and doctors of a government-run hospital here are in hot water for allegedly failing to extend help to a 17-year-old girl who was raped by at least two young men yesterday dawn.

Supt. Josephus Angan, Cebu City police director, ordered the policemen in Pardo police precinct to explain why they did not conduct a pursuit operation when Karina (not her real name) and a witness went to their station, shortly after the rape was committed.

It was only after the crime was reported in media when policemen conducted an operation that led to the arrest of one of the suspects identified as Leonardo Gequilan, 21.

Police arrested him in his home in Barangay Basak at about 9 a.m., about eight hours after Karina was allegedly gang-raped in his house.

Councilor Christopher Alix, City Council committee chair on health and hospital services, also ordered an investigation of reports that the victim was made to wait for at least three hours at the Cebu City Medical Center (CCMC) before she was attended to.

No medical examination was made on Karina because she and her companion did not have P100 to buy a pair of gloves and a pregnancy test kit.

Karina, a sophomore student and a resident of Barangay Punta Princesa here, went with her friends in Barangay Basak in this city Sunday afternoon after classes in a public school in Cebu City.

She and a friend acceded to the invitation of Gequilan to go to his house. A common friend, Ronald Yap, introduced Karina to Gequilan that afternoon.

Karina joined in a drinking session in Gequilan's house with Yap and nine other young men. Karina got drunk and decided to rest inside Gequilan's room.

At that time, Yap said he accompanied Karina's friend who wanted to go home.

At about 1:30 a.m., Yap went back to Gequilan's house and found Karina crying, claiming she had just been raped.

She told Yap that the suspects banged her head, punched her stomach and strangled her when she resisted.

He said the victim told him that Gequilan and another suspect raped her. But a police report said four young men raped the girl.

Yap brought Karina to the Pardo police station. The policeman on duty told them to secure a medical certificate first because those in charge of the women and children desk has yet to report for work.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 24°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 26°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/30/02

ROUNDUP

New Sorsogon bishop

SORSOGON CITY—Bishop Jesus Varela has announced that Sorsogon's co-adjutor bishop, Most Rev. Arturo Bastes, will replace him when he retires in December this year. Varela will turn 75 in December and the Canon Law requires bishops to retire at that age. Bastes, 58, of Looc, Bohol, is the incumbent bishop of Romblon until the announcement. The liturgical reception or the formal receiving of Bastes to the diocese is set in September.
Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village councilor slain

CALAMBA CITY—A newly elected councilor of Barangay Canlubang here was killed while a sitio chair was seriously injured in a gunfight on Friday between the two and other companions. A witness identified the slain official as Vevencio Piamonte, and the seriously wounded sitio head as Guillermo Aala, 49, of Sitio Kapayapaan, Barangay Canlubang. Witness Weng Aala Bueno, Aala's daughter, told the INQUIRER that at about 6 p.m., Friday, while Aala and his friends were having a drinking session in her house, Piamonte, who was allegedly drunk, arrived at the scene and asked who among the group was brave. Then without provocation, Piamonte shot Aala in the abdomen, which broke his two ribs, injured his lungs and blasted his intestines. When Aala fell, his companions allegedly drew their firearms and shot Piamonte dead.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Stockbrokers face charges

LEGAZPI CITY—Securities and Exchange Commission chair Lilia Bautista on Friday said 77 stockbrokers are facing administrative charges for manipulation of stocks and the cases are now with the Department of Justice. Bautista was here during a SEC-sponsored investor information seminar. The seminars aim to promote the importance of making informed investment decisions, among others.
Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New shipping route

LEGAZPI CITY—The Cebu-based Trans-Asia Shipping Co. will open its Cebu-Legazpi ferry route this October. Mayor Noel Rosal said the local government will provide tax holiday for the shipping firm. The vessel, which will sail twice a week, will carry at least 500 passengers at a maximum time of 16 hours from Legazpi to Cebu and vice versa.
Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cop nabbed for shabu

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A police officer from the Lanao del Sur Police Command was arrested here during a buy-bust operation by the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office in Central Mindanao on Friday. Supt. Efren Alcuizar, Rano 12 chief, said SPO1 Saikalabi Dianca, assigned with the Ganassi Police Office, was stepping out of his rented room at the Zabala Lodge along Magsaysay Avenue on Friday when Narcom operatives collared him. Taken from his possession were 25 grams of metamphetamine hydrochloride.
Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Suspected drug pushers

DAVAO CITY—Police arrested at least five suspected drug pushers in separate raids here this week. On Tuesday, Jesus Arguilias, 39, an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Southern Mindanao, was arrested inside the Regency Hotel. Seized from him was a sachet of suspected shabu. Police also arrested a couple during a buy-bust operation inside Green Meadows Subdivision in Mintal District. Recovered from Abdul Bassit Andong, 38, and his wife Baidido, 37, were two sachets of shabu, drug paraphernalia and a .22 cal. pistol. Two college students were also arrested while handing over shabu to an agent. Hasan Jaliani, 24 and Aslani Banto, 23, also yielded six sachets of the illegal drug worth more than P5,000.
Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fernandez, 51

DAVAO CITY—Former INQUIRER correspondent and feature writer, E. Rene Fernandez died on Saturday at the Doctors Hospital in Zamboanga City due to a lingering illness. He was 51. He is survived by his wife Becky and daughters Felicia Agnetha, Melisse and Patricia. His remains lie at the family residence in Barangay Talon-Talon, Zamboanga City. Interment will be on Saturday, Aug. 3 at the Forest Lake in Tumaga, Zamboanga City after a 2 p.m. Mass at the Talon-Talon Church.
Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Concepcion Paquena, Naga City
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Irosin Sorsogon City
Gemma F. Imperial
Bunot, Leagspi City
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Estrella Bernal & Family
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Eusebio Gama
Gimenez, Naga City
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Pamela Enteria
Zamora St. Naga City
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Libmanan, Camarines Sur
Osias L. Aspe
Magarao, Camarines Sur

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Calauag, Naga City
Mary Anne O. Carranceja
Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte

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Calauag, Naga City
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Onit Manalo & Family
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Rogelio Toledo
Malaya, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija
Editha R. Ramos
Livelihood Complex, Baguio City

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Gloria Costega
Caba, La Union
Marilou Turna
Irisan, Baguio City

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Jefferson Caasi
Tacay, Baguio Ciy
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Irisan, Baguio City
Evangeline Obello
City Camp Central, Baguio Ciy
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Richelou Rulloda
Rommel Durian
Carlito Pambid
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San Roque, Cabanatuan City
Josephine Collado
Lourdes, Baguio City
Marie Joy Marin
Pindangan Rd., San Fernando City

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Lani Nisperoa & Family
John K. Sawad
Pinsao, Baguio City
Roland Obello
City Hall, Baguio City
Alex K. Sawad
Pinsao, Purok 4, Baguio City
Jacqueline Lopez
Balungao, Pangasinan

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Mr. & Mrs. Alba & Family
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William Kho Go
Rosario St. Bacolod City
Genevieve Maghari
Dña.Juliana St. Bacolod City
Merlinda Dionela
Mansilingan, Bacolod City

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Mary-Ann Jimenea & Family
Renelyn Bawa-an
Handumanan, Bacolod
Nora Briones
Poblacion Numancia, Aklan
Roberto Malicia
Buenavista, Guimaras
Nicanora Selerio
Brgy. Granada, Bacolod City

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Regenia Cordova & Family
Jocelyn Veranio
Bais City, Negros Oriental
Corazon dela Cruz
Cauayan Negros Occidental
Erlinda Denosta
Rizal St. Roxas City
Zenaida Javier
Arevalo, Iloilo City

June 08, 2002
Cylah Magbanua & Family
Nimfa Miran & Family
Joannie Reyes
Taloc, Bago City
Alexandra Jade Saul
San Miguel, Iloilo Province
Susan Dumalay
Handumanan, Bacolod City
Cecile Tapleras
New Washington, Aklan

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Raymundo Tres Reyes & Family
Isaac San Jose & Family
Analiza Dolan
Handumanan, Bacolod City
Jelibeth Beatingo
Escalante, Negros Occidental
Asalea Mangao
Barile St., Kabangkalan City
Ma. Annabelle Celo
Calinog, Iloilo Province

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Celedonio Perez & Family
Mercedita Mesahon & Family
Rosie Morifora
Mahogany St., Bacolod City
Clidette Batuigas
Molo, Iloilo City
Rodalee Lim
Tinsay-Arsenal St., Iloilo City
Elvera Baja
Aguinaldo, Bacolod City

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Sarah Spagnolo & Friends
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Agnes Avelino
Burawen Leyte
Imelda Tagoctoc
Bool District, Tagbilaran City
Gemar Entapa
Basak, Mandaue City

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Merlo Marzado & Family
Emma P. Oliquino
Oslon, Cebu
Corposa Pana
Sool District, Tagbilaran City
Lucio Dabalos
CPG Ave.,Tagbilaran City
Leonilo Getes
Inayawan, Cebu City

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Friz Beltran & Family
Rubilyn Tanacao
Talamban, Cebu City
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Duljo Fatima, Cebu City
Gemma Viray
Basak Pardo, Cebu City
Aneris Dumdum
Bacayan, Cebu City

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Rodner Elnasin & Family
Eliah Gabo
Talisay, Cebu City
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Lower Mohon, Talisay City
Glicera Caraman
Sambag, Corella, Bohol
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Mr. & Mrs. Alenea & Family
Ruby Ann Bandario
Loee, Lapu-Lapu City
Thelma Jalina
V. Rama Ave. Cebu City
Aireen Quisido
Poblacion, Talisay City
Loveca Habal
Badian, Cebu

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Mr. & Mrs. Sato & Family
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Erwin Gamutan
Punta Princesa, Cebu City
Melissa Versaga
Astorias, Cebu
Ernesto Bas, Jr.
Mingkanilla, Cebu

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Leopoldo P. Antena
Norma S. Subico
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Celina Castalles & Family
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Rowena Galo
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Kibawe, Bukidnon
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Chavez St.,Cagayan de Oro
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Marilyn Mariano
R. Chavez St., Cagayan de Oro City
Zonna S. Nadera
Kauswagan , Cagayan de Oro City
Ma. Rolamae T. Namoc
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Kenneth Mariano
Chavez St, Cagayan de Oro City
Irene B. Capet
Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City

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Oscar P. Oliveros
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Lacner Arcega
Cugman , Cagayan De Oro City
Mary Grace Batino
R. Chavez St., Cagayan De Oro City

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Carmelita Madulin & Family
Rolinda B. Sisa
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Rick D. Jaudian
Naawan, Misamis Oriental
Edith P. Domingo
Canitoan, Cagayan de Oro City
Maisol L. Ramos
Chavez St., Cagayan de Oro City

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Rey Candido & Friends
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Valderoza St. Zamboanga City
Lucena S. Javier
San Roque, Zamboanga City
Emma Arayata
Divisoria, Zamboanga City
Mercy V. Gonzales
San Jose Road, Zamboanga City

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Violeta Concepcion & Family
Ferdinand Hassan
San Jose Rd., Zamboanga City
Lucebeth S. Javier
San Roque District, Zamboanga City
Teresita Kanindot
Tumayuga, Zamboanga City
James Bryan C. Espina
Guiwan, Zamboanga City

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Jansen Francisco & Family
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Arthur Fernando
Tumaga, Zamboanga City
Bernardino Concepcion
San Roque, Zamboanga City
Meriam Soria
Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay

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Reino E. Molina & Family
Gina Sabtal
Arena Blanco, Zamboanga City
Asuncion Bernardo
La Paz, Zamboanga City
Catalina T. Aragon
Tumaga, Putik, Zamboanga City
Robert S. Suarez
Canelar St. Zamboanga City

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Imelda M. Alfonso & Family
Roselyn Barrios
San Roque, Zamboanga City
Ernesto E. Nunal
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Jocelyn Araneta Locsin
Putik Boundary, Zamboanga City
Guadalupe F. Junuario
Gov. Alvarez Ave., Zamboanga City

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Nenita Martinez
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PAGILINGAN CHALLENGE

Per DOH-BPAD Permit No. 0311 Series of 2002

MLSA denounced as new bases pact

From page A1

manpower resources and servicing, but more accurately and candidly, this enumeration refers to permanent housing, operations construction and infrastructure, a 10-year access to all Philippine sea and airports—all explicitly prohibited by the Constitution," she said.

The final draft also shows that the MLSA is a treaty requiring ratification by the Senate and not an executive agreement to be signed by defense officials of both countries, according to Marcos.

But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the MLSA did not need Senate approval. He said at a press conference that the original "intention" in drafting the MLSA was "to make an executive agreement" between the country and the United States.

"And therefore, there is no need of ratification by the Senate," Perez said.

"While apparently covering only logistics support, this executive agreement in actual fact expands the applicability of the Mutual Defense Treaty far beyond its original content," Marcos said.

Any time

Marcos said the MLSA would allow the entry of American armed forces into Philippine territory at "almost any time, under virtually all conditions, whatever the prevailing circumstances."

The MLSA states that the agreement applies "in times of international tension, national emergency of either party or actual hostilities" and during "unforeseen circumstances or exigencies."

"In the Philippine context, replete with unforeseen exigencies and tensions, when would the MLSA not apply?" Marcos said.

Nobody rose to interpellate Marcos.

Even as Marcos spoke, her colleagues demanded to know the contents of the MLSA after Malacañang said the draft would be shown to senators.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, and Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said the draft should be made known to policymakers for the sake of transparency.

"If the criticisms against the MLSA are baseless, then why do they keep it secret?" said Lozada, an official of the ruling Lakas-NUCD.

Marcos distributed copies of the "final draft" of the "Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (RP-US-01) between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines."

The eight-page document indicates that the commander in chief of the USPacom (US Pacific Command) and the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are signatories to the agreement.

In her speech, Marcos tied the MLSA to the "treacherous gift" of military aid to the Philippines granted by the US Congress last week.

She said the MLSA was not what Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had claimed—a "low-level agreement which only involves the facilitation of exchanges" between US and Philippine forces.

Onerous

"Indeed, a quick perusal of the final version's contents, barely changing from the first draft discussed last January, will reveal tnat these are indeed onerous conditions in exchange for logistics support and US$55 million," Marcos said.

She said there were "potential violations lurking" in the MLSA and that these and the $55 million in military aid was a "Trojan horse sent to allow the US forces to launch their global war against terrorism from Philippine soil."

She said the MLSA would allow the Philippines to be a participant in the US operations against Iraq, Iran, North Korea and others considered by Washington as the "Axis of Evil."

"When the MLSA converts our country into the American base of operations in Asia, the location from which acts of aggression are launched, we too, by aiding and abetting through provisions of support, services and supplies, become guilty of acts of aggression," she said.

She asked if the Philippines was ready for reciprocal attacks by America's enemies on its territory and on Filipinos everywhere.

"Must we prepare to go to war against Indonesia, a founding member of the Asean family, simply because it contains the largest Islamic population in the world and the Americans say so?" she said.

Marcos also asked: "How long must we, representatives of the people, be kept in the dark?"

Lozada said it was very important that the government clear the issues against the MLSA. He said reports about US disapproval of sovereignty clauses in agreements like the MLSA should be clarified.

Incoming Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said he would make sure that the provision on respect for sovereignty was included in the MLSA.

In a talk with Senate reporters before delivering his valedictory speech, Ople said that while he did not take part in the drafting of the MLSA, he said he would insist that this provision be respected in the final draft. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana***

Asean agrees to tone down references to sovereignty

From page A1

cognizes" such principles.

Indonesia and Vietnam initially objected to the revision, fearing it would dilute sovereignty and allow the United States to send ground troops to the region. But Asean foreign ministers say military operations would be left to individual countries.

The declaration is to serve as a "framework for cooperation to prevent, disrupt and combat international terrorism through the exchange and flow of information and intelligence," according to the draft.

The draft lists several areas of cooperation, including the development of counter-terrorism policies and compliance with UN resolutions.

No launching pad

Southeast Asian leaders want to end the perception that their nations are a possible launching ground for terror. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei said in a speech to the foreign ministers that terrorism threatened Southeast Asian economic and social progress.

"This is why we are fully committed to removing its sponsors," the sultan said, emphasizing that the solution could not be solely military but had to take into account economic, social, cultural and religious roots.

On Sunday, Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said the pact would allow for greater cooperation in counter-terrorism measures, but stops short of providing for US troop deployment in the region.

Indonesia and Vietnam have said they will support the pact, though diplomats said Vietnam was concerned about technical points in naming agencies that would communicate with other countries.

Singapore Foreign Minister Shanmugam Jayakumar said the draft document was "very close to finalization."

"I think it's a good draft," Jayakumar said. "It emphasizes that Asean wants to work with the United States."

US officials said, however, that no final agreement had yet been reached on the proposed anti-terrorism pact.

"It's not done yet, there are still a couple of issues outstanding being negotiated," a senior US Department of State official said, adding that the remaining hurdles were "bureaucratic" in nature.

Powell's message

Powell arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, the first stop of a six-nation Southeast Asian tour, bearing a direct message: No country is exempt from the threat of terrorism.

He met yesterday morning with Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai. Afterward, Powell thanked Thailand for its cooperation in the war on terrorism and for its plans to send an engineering brigade to Afghanistan before the end of the year.

Surakiart said he was pleased with the level of cooperation on terrorism with the United States. Powell later visited King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Royal Palace.

Thailand is a longtime defense ally of the United States. A senior US official accompanying Powell noted the country had a strong record of ratifying UN counter-terror treaties.

Thailand has had a persistent but decreasing Muslim separatist movement in the south, but there are no credible indications that suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden's brand of militant Islam is behind it.

Powell's talks in Bangkok were expected to focus on expanding not only existing counter-terrorism cooperation but also expanded anti-narcotics and human trafficking, officials said.

From Thailand, Powell heads to Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines, spending less than 24 hours in each capital. At Brunei's capital, however, he will stay for two days to attend the ARF.

"All of those nations have increasingly realized that terrorism is a danger to each and every one of us," Powell told reporters en route to India and Pakistan where he began his lightning swing through Asia at the weekend.

Global agenda?

"It's not just an American agenda," Powell said. "It has to be an international agenda."

US soldiers end tomorrow the six-month-long Balikatan 02-1 counter-terrorism training program. Powell said he would be discussing a continuation of the programs while in Manila on Saturday.

"We will continue to explore with the Filipinos on how to move forward with our joint training exercises in a way that benefits them," he said. ***AP, AFP***

GMA tells Reds: Look who's violating rights

From page A1

an American soldier working alongside Filipino soldiers shot Basilan resident Buyong-buyong Isnijal in the leg last week in the course of an arrest operation.

The military had identified Isnijal as an active member of the Abu Sayyaf—a claim that his family denied.

"We shall uphold the constitutional rights of our people with the full force of a strong republic," Ms Macapagal said yesterday, adding:

"But let me serve this warning: We shall not relent in the fight against terrorists and criminals hiding behind the veil of human rights advocacies or other seemingly deceptively legitimate political advocacies."

Ms Macapagal presented to the media six Basilan residents in an effort to show that the real violators of human rights were the Abu Sayyaf.

She said the six were residents of Barangay Tairan in Lantawan and Barangay Balobo in Lamitan, which the bandits raided last year.

"Why haven't you interviewed these victims of the Abu Sayyaf and see and listen for yourselves what it means to be a victim of the worst form of brutality and inhuman treatment?" she said, addressing her critics.

She said that on June 11, 2001, the Abu Sayyaf raided the Golden Harvest farm in Tairan, torched 10 houses and the chapel, and abducted 15 men.

The bandits reportedly beheaded two men and enslaved the others until they were rescued six months later.

Hostages

The President also recalled how the Abu Sayyaf, disguised as soldiers, took hostage 34 people including women and children from Sitio Baquinao in Balobo on Aug. 2, 2001.

Eleven hostages escaped after the Abu Sayyaf killed all the 10 men along the way, she said. Three days later, she added, the Abu Sayyaf released the remaining hostages because they could not pay ransom, but first raped some of the women.

"This senseless massacre of Balobo and Tairan residents is only two of the so many ruthless and barbaric acts of terrorism perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf, showing total disregard for the human rights of the victims and abuses on women's chastity, honor and dignity," Ms Macapagal said.

Speaking in her own tongue, Lydia Ibanez recalled how the Abu Sayyaf beheaded her husband.

Gliceria Ramirez said two of her sons, the family's breadwinners, were also beheaded.

Rowel Adalion said he also suffered in the bandits' hands. But he still managed to provide a light moment that drew laughter from the media.

Asked to describe his captor, Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, Adalion replied in Filipino: "He's good-looking. He has a high-bridged nose."

Drawing more laughter, Adalion added: "He's really good-looking even if he's a bad man."

By then the President had left the room.

'Pathetic'

First the President called them "communists." Then Lt. Col. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, insinuated that they were "monkeys" for believing the story of Isnijal's wife Juraida that he was shot by an American soldier.

Ocampo said it was "pathetic" that Carolina had resorted to name-calling.

"The Southcom can't ably parry the findings of the International Solidarity Mission, so he's ranting about monkeys and such," the party-list representative said. "Maybe Carolina should start thinking about early retirement. Clearly, his reasoning is completely shot." ***With a report from Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Gov't to use stick on anti-Powell demonstrators

From page A1

mass up for rallies scheduled today.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, who accused American Reggie Lane on Saturday of shooting suspected Abu Sayyaf member Buyong-buyong Isnijal, told the INQUIRER he was worried about the safety of over a thousand Peace Caravan delegates expected in the city. A late report said five anti-Balikatan protesters were injured, for yet-to-be-determined reasons.

In Central Luzon, residents who live near two former US military bases said yesterday they were gearing up for protests in the run-up to Saturday's meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Powell.

Zamboanga rallies

Last night, Ocampo said there had been a delay of the arrival of the Peace Caravan delegates. "They were expected to be here at 2 p.m., then 4 p.m. Now it's already 7 p.m., yet they are still not here," he said.

He said he was expecting more than 1,000 delegates coming from Cebu City, Bohol, Naga City, Cagayan de Oro, Ipil, Dipolog City, General Santos City, Pagadian, Socsargen, Davao and Zamboanga City itself.

Supt. Mario Yanga, Zamboanga City police director, gave assurances that the rallies would be peaceful. He said the anti-Balikatan group would not number more than 1,000 demonstrators, while pro-Balikatan ralliers, led by the React unit, CrimeWatch and Kabalikat, were massing up in front of Southern Command headquarters.

CrimeWatch chair Dr. Luis Rodriguez and React Basilan under Ghalib Espital, a self-admitted asset of Southcom spokesperson Lt. Col Fredesvindo Covarrubias, said they expected around 800 ralliers, mostly from this city.

"We are pure Zamboangueños and lovers of Americans, we love and we want the Americans to stay here because they bring development here," Rodriguez said.

Ocampo admitted that "the atmosphere is hostile here. I hope the police will make sure that the safety of our people will be the utmost consideration."

Bayan Muna's evidence

Ocampo and other militant lawmakers were set to present evidence to a congressional inquiry proving Lane's involvement in the shooting of Isnijal.

Ocampo said he and Rep. Liza Maza were standing by the fact-finding work of the International Solidarity Mission.

Ocampo said Lane and two other US soldiers brought Isnijal to the Lamitan Provincial Hospital after the incident in Tuburan.

Ocampo said Isnijal's wife Juraida executed an affidavit and made a video testimony saying that a tall "Afro-American" shot her husband during the operation on July 25. He added that Isnijal's niece Chona Castillo and neighbor Rabbang Panajil would corroborate Juraida's testimony.

Ocampo said, however, that Juraida did not identify the US soldier by name.

Maza, who was with Ocampo and the ISM in Basilan, identified the US soldier as Reggie Lane on Saturday.

She said the description of Dr. Julius Caesar Aguila, who attended to Isnijal at the Lamitan hospital, matched Juraida's description of the foreigner who shot her husband.

She said Aguila described the US soldier who brought Isnijal to the hospital as "5'10 to 6, stocky and possessing a pronounced aquiline nose."

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the House foreign relations committee, said he would suggest the formation of a technical working group to "validate" the conflicting claims of Bayan Muna and the military.

"The first we should do is to look at the facts of the case," Lozada said.

Outrageous accusation

The US Embassy released a three-paragraph statement yesterday flatly denying the charges against Lane, calling it "outrageous."

The US Embassy said the US Army medic "may have actually saved the life of the Abu Sayyaf member."

"The US Embassy categorically denies the assertions of involvement by US service personnel in a shooting incident in Basilan. We are aware of recent reports falsely accusing US personnel of violating the Balikatan 02-1 Terms of Reference, including the outrageous accusation of a US Army medic's involvement in the shooting of a local civilian. We unequivocally deny the veracity of these reports," the embassy statement read.

The embassy said that at the request of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, a US medic provided treatment to a "known ASG associate" who was wounded in an operation conducted by the Philippine military.

"The assertions being circulated are patently false. No US forces were involved in combat operations in Basilan. No US service member fired on a Filipino civilian. A US medic may have actually saved the life of the ASG member involved," the US Embassy said.

DFA findings

The Department of Foreign Affairs also reached the same conclusion: that Lane was a medic and was at the site to render first aid to the wounded suspected ASG member.

VFACom Executive Director Jaime Yambao said the VFACom monitoring team's initial findings indicated that no US soldier violated the TOR.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros stressed that Lane was found wearing a gun when he was seen at the site and that this could have led to the allegations that Lane shot the suspected Abu Sayyaf member.

Lecaros said that preliminary reports reaching the DFA from the VFACom indicate that the involvement of the US military was limited to the following:

Upon the request of RP forces, a US military medic administered on-site first aid to the wounded suspect.

RP and US forces transported the wounded suspect to a local operations base where the suspect was once again treated by two other US medics.

Once stable, the suspect was moved by RP and US force to the hospital in Lamitan. ***Juliet Javellana, Christine Herrera, Martin Marfil, Cynthia Balana; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AP, AFP***

Davide wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

From page A1

award for public service for improving the treatment of lepers at the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Center in Pakistan and for fighting the stigma attached to the disease.

Cynthia Maung, born to an ethnic Karen family in Burma, won the prize for community leadership for setting up a clinic in Mae Sot, Thailand, which treats thousands of refugees on the Myanmar-Thai border.

Bharat Koirala, founder of the Nepal Press Institute, won the award for journalism, literature and communications for developing professional journalism in his country while promoting the use of mass media for development.

Buddhist monk Sukho Choi, also known as "Venerable Pomnyun Snim," won the award for peace and international understanding for his efforts to rally assistance for the afflicted people of North Korea.

Sandeep Pandey of India won the award for emergent leadership for helping found Asha (Hope), a group which supports education and livelihood projects for poor children in India, particularly "dalits" or untouchables.

The winners will each receive a medallion and a cash prize of $50,000 in an awards ceremony at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila on Aug. 31, 2002. The ceremony is open to the public.

The awards foundation was set up in May 1957 in honor of Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay who died in a plane crash in March 1957.

Since they were first presented in 1958, the Magsaysay Awards have been given to 44 individuals and 15 institutions.

With a report from AFP

Bunye cautioned on statements

By Christine Avendaño

MALACAÑANG should refrain from issuing unofficial statements attributed to President Macapagal-Arroyo, particularly when they involve "sensitive matters" like the fate of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, a congressman yesterday said.

Muntinlupa Rep. Rufino Biazon said that Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's statement that the President had hinted that she would replace Alvarez was "reminiscent" of Malacañang's handling of the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona as foreign secretary.

The Palace early this month took back its announcement that Guingona had resigned after the latter denied he was doing so. Eventually, Guingona resigned but many sectors assailed Malacañang for the shabby treatment of the Vice President.

"In sensitive matters such as these, Malacañang should only issue categorical and final statements in order to prevent strain within the government and misinformation to the public," Biazon said in a statement.

"Statements attributed to the President should not be based on impressions and hints, but rather on clear and precise information," said Biazon, who defeated Bunye in the 2001 election for Muntinlupa City's lone congressional seat.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, a Lakas member, said Bunye should refrain from making statements "until he has something solid."

"It places him (Bunye) in a queer situation, including the President and Alvarez," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER.

Bunye's statement must be clarified, he said, "in fairness to Alvarez."

Gonzalez said that Bunye's statement was demoralizing for Alvarez and that if he were the environment secretary, he would talk to the President.

If Alvarez wants to stay in the Cabinet, he better make sure that he gets confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, according to Bunye.

"The President respects this (CA) process," Bunye said yesterday in a radio interview. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

I'll never give in to pressure–Alvarez

From page A1

warded shortly to the commission," he said.

Last week, Alvarez wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo a letter about the "issues at hand." He did not elaborate.

He described his ordeal as a "struggle against vested interests. What is happening is really a question of good governance versus vested interests."

When interviewed, Alvarez accused Pichay of, among other things, "lawyering for Picop," said to be Asia's biggest paper and plywood manufacturer. The firm is based in Bislig, Surigao del Sur.

Both Alvarez and Pichay belong to the ruling Lakas-NUCD.

Alvarez said Pichay had been trying to discredit him after he rejected the legislator's request for the automatic conversion of the logging firm's Timber License Agreement (TLA) into an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma).

"He has insisted on this knowing fully well that it is constitutionally unacceptable. The government policy is for co-production sharing, a scheme which gives the state a bigger share in the proceeds of our forest resources," Alvarez said.

"For Congressman Pichay to insist on automatic conversion is for the government to waive its right over hundreds of millions of pesos that should accrue to its coffers and to ignore the need to restore our forest cover and look after the welfare of indigenous peoples," Alvarez said.

According to Alvarez, Pichay is the "stalking horse of Picop whose automatic conversion into an Ifma the congressman has been trying to bamboozle me into approving. He is also seeking a presidential warranty for the country's largest logging concession (area: 184,000 hectares)."

"What Mr. Pichay lobbied in private, he also sought to achieve through pressure tactics at the commission in my confirmation hearings and through the media," Alvarez said in a statement.

Pichay

Two weeks ago, Pichay filed a graft complaint against Alvarez with the Office of the Ombudsman for entering into an Ifma with Shannlyne, a logging firm, which, the legislator said, was foreign-controlled.

The case was used by Pichay in opposing Alvarez's confirmation by the commission.

Pichay, who is in the United States, the other day responded to this reporter's request for a phone interview by sending this text message: "Am out of town till next week. Please wait till I get back to give my side."

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Bernardino for comment.

Alvarez said he was very disappointed with the Picop president, who "in his desire to cover all the bases has now resorted to blackmail by having an underling insinuate that I was trying to extort money from Mr. Bernardino during a recent meeting (at the Manila Hotel)."

According to Alvarez, Bernardino "lied when he claimed that I defied President Macapagal's verbal instructions (on Oct. 11, 2001) to convert Picop's TLA into an Ifma. What the President said was that I treat Picop fairly and justly according to law and the Constitution that mandates co-production regimes."

Automatic

Bernardino had earlier asserted that the conversion of Picop's TLA into an Ifma was automatic and absolute.

Reports said that before Congress' adjournment, at least 13 of the 18 members of the CA committee on environment and natural resources had already affixed their signatures to the panel resolution for Alvarez's confirmation.

The Senate committee was set to hold its last confirmation hearing on June 4. However, it was canceled after the opposition senators staged a coup in the Senate, prompting administration senators to declare the final adjournment of the regular session.

As a result, the confirmation of Alvarez and other presidential appointees were left hanging.

In a statement, Alvarez cited the following grounds against the issuance of an Ifma for Picop:

- Picop's 50-year corporate life expired on March 26.

"Its corporate existence remains in limbo. To be more precise, it is legally non-existent," Alvarez said.

SEC has asked Picop to pay a P6-million filing fee for the extension of its corporate existence.

"Mr. Bernardino must renew first Picop's life, settle its financial obligations with government, then and only then should he demand from us a franchise," Alvarez said.

- No presidential warranty can be given to any private corporation like Picop because under the Constitution, the development or use of forests and forest resources has been placed under the full control and supervision of the State.
- Picop owes the government P37.3 million in forest charges for logs produced last year, in violation of Presidential Decree No. 705 (Forestry Code). Post-dated checks issued by the company have bounced.
- Picop has yet to answer charges of systematic violations of forest laws, including the misdeclaration of timber species and overcutting of logs, resulting in losses of more than P470 million for the government.

Bernardino's "insistence on automatic conversion meant government's outright condonation of these illegal acts," Alvarez said.

- Picop operations are being opposed by indigenous communities within its concession areas, said to be ancestral lands.

Contrary to reports, Alvarez said Picop's operations "have not ground down to a halt. The paper mill has other sources of raw materials, including more than 115,000 hectares of forests covered by Ifma Nos. 28 and 35."

Alvarez expressed confidence his CA confirmation hearings would reach their logical end shortly. "I'm very optimistic," he said.

On his "running battle" with his foes outside the commission, Alvarez vowed to "stand by my guns. And I will not waver in my resolve to stand pat in the defense of the environment, and in the case of Picop, the survival of the nation's forests and the increase in government's share in the wealth of our natural resources." ***With reports from Gerald Lacuarta and Christine Gaylican***

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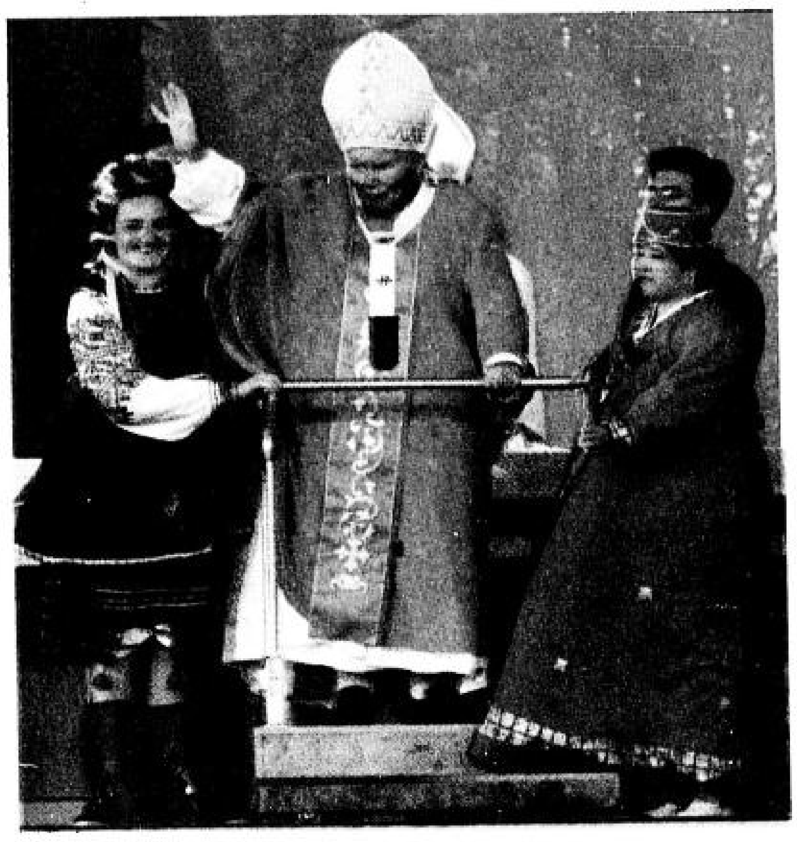
Don't let scandals shake faith–Pope

From page A1



REUTERS

POPE at Downsview: His health has shown a remarkable rebound.

outdoor Mass, using plastic sheets, cardboard boxes and flags to shield them from a dawn downpour that continued for much of the morning before the sun broke through near midday.

Undaunted by the puddles and the chills, the young pilgrims woke up to attend the culmination of the Pope's week-long stay in Canada. He leaves for Guatemala on Monday and ends his tour in Mexico on Thursday.

"I don't care if I'm wet. It was worth it, including the money I spent to get here and the 30-hour bus ride from home," said Cecilia Rziha, 17, of Tampa, Kansas, squatting in mud in the first row of the outdoor Mass.

In his homily, read in a strong and clear voice that has characterized this trip, the Pope addressed the priestly sex scandal that has rocked the Roman Catholic Church around the world, mostly in the United States.

"Do not be discouraged by the sins and failings of some of her (the Church's) members," he said, in what was believed to be his first public comment on the subject since the scandal began in the United States in January.

"The harm done by some priests and religious to the young and vulnerable fills us all with a deep sense of sadness and shame. But think of the vast majority of dedicated and generous priests and religious whose only wish is to serve and do good."

The Pope spoke as Canadian newspapers reported two priests from New Jersey were arrested earlier this month on charges of crossing the border into Canada to solicit sex from male prostitutes, some of them minors, in Montreal.

Wearing resplendent green and white vestments and speaking from a huge altar platform topped by a giant cross, the Pope said the scandal should not deter them from becoming priests if they had the calling.

The 82-year-old Pope arrived by helicopter from his residence in central Toronto and was driven around the sea of rain ponchos and umbrellas so most of the people in the huge crowd could see him.

Old Pope, young dreams

In his homily, he also jokingly referred to his age, saying: "You are young and the Pope is old and a bit tired. Being 80 or 82 is not the same as 22 or 23, but he still fully identifies with your hopes and aspirations."

He announced that the next World Youth Day would be in Cologne, Germany, in 2005.

The Pope's health has shown a remarkable rebound in Canada.

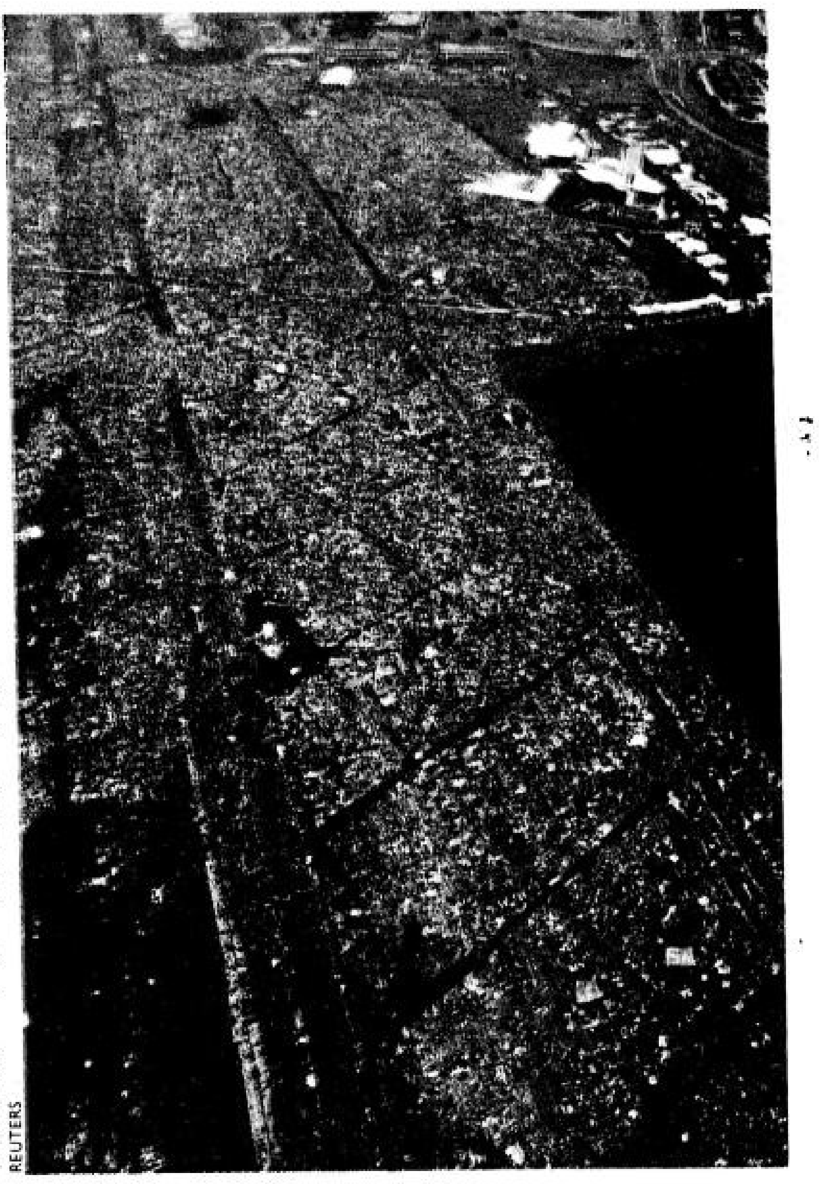
Only in May during a trip to Azerbaijan and Bulgaria, Vatican aides were openly questioning whether he would be able to complete this trip.

But so far on his 97th foreign trip, he has read speeches in a relatively strong voice, appeared more alert than usual and has changed his program often to interact with the crowds.

Young pilgrims were not the only ones to get wet in the morning downpour.

Dozens of cardinals and bishops who celebrated the final Mass with the Pope had to lift their cassocks with one hand to negotiate puddles while holding an umbrella with the other.

The blue suits of Canada's politicians were drenched despite the efforts of their aides to keep their bosses dry. *Reuters*



REUTERS

AERIAL view of 800,000 who attended outdoor Mass in Toronto.

Blas turns ballistic in valedictory

From page A1

Senate with a "heavy heart" but devoted much of his speech to defending himself from an INQUIRER editorial describing him as the wrong man for the foreign affairs portfolio and from INQUIRER columnist Doronila's "vicious and scurrilous" commentaries.

Saying the criticisms were baseless, Ople said Doronila and the INQUIRER had never cited a single concrete case linking him to abuse of power.

He said he had never been involved in any controversial contract with the government or linked to any act of graft and corruption since he entered public service in 1953 as a technical assistant of then President Ramon Magsaysay.

"Just as I did in the Senate, I come to the Cabinet of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with clean hands," he said. "My life is an open book. I have nothing to hide."

Ople, who will be sworn in as foreign secretary this morning in Malacañang, took a leaf from Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables" and assailed Doronila for purportedly appointing himself as Valjean's tormentor Javert.

In the novel, Javert hounded Valjean, a respected official of his town in France who, in his youth was convicted of stealing a loaf of bread.

Javert was so filled with remorse in the end that he drowned himself in the Seine.

"I do not predict a similar end for Mr. Doronila, but highly envenomed personalities never really discover the joys of personal peace and tranquil consciences," Ople said.

Baffled

The ex-senator from the opposition said Doronila's alleged virulence had baffled him because he could not recall having done anything to hurt the columnist.

The last time he saw Doronila, Ople said, was when he gave the latter his first professional writing job as editor of the Boys Scout News in 1947. Ople was then deputy chief of the public relations office of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

Sought for comment last night, Doronila said this was a lie. "I don't owe Ople that job," the columnist said. "I got it through a competitive examination."

Ople described Doronila as "short of the objective mind" required of a fair-minded political analyst.

"And like other people, I also am entitled to choose my own friends," he said. "That is perhaps my sole unforgivable sin—that I have ignored Doronila's existence."

Ople said both he and Doronila pursued a career in journalism and started at the bottom.

"(But) somewhere along the way, on the path to progress, I passed him on the road to become a senator and now, secretary of foreign affairs," Ople said. "I think he cannot forgive me for this. The Tagalogs have a word for this: *inggit* (envy). But this does not prove that I am the better man. The Tagalogs also can explain this: *swertehan lang* (just luck)."

Ople said his best defense for attacks against him was his personal integrity.

He also assailed Pastor Saycon of the Council for Philippine Affairs for opposing his appointment as foreign secretary.

But he lauded INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto, president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, and the editorial staff led by editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc for what he called their sense of fairness.

Irresistible

In his speech, Ople said he hoped that his acceptance of a Cabinet post would lead to national reconciliation.

"The call to a new challenge as a humble steward of Philippine foreign policy has proved irresistible," he said. "Coming from the opposition, I hope my decision to accept the President's invitation to join her Cabinet will also be a good augury for building national unity in time of crisis."

He said his new job as foreign secretary grew out of his work in the Senate.

"Therefore, I owe this to you as much as I owe it to the President and to the Filipino people," he told the senators.

Ople thanked Senate President Franklin Drilon for being "broad-minded" throughout the Senate impasse and members of the opposition bloc for respecting his decision to leave them.

He said he was not afraid that he would suffer the fate of his predecessor, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, whose removal as foreign secretary was prematurely announced by Malacañang even before the latter quit the post.

He said men of principle should not fear putting their jobs at risk if that was the price to pay for honest contributions.

Profuse

The senators were profuse in their praise for Ople, who also served as labor minister in the Marcos regime.

Sen. Renato Cayetano said he would miss Ople's persuasive voice in the Senate and his insights on critical issues, particularly on foreign relations.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said: "The more I hear from this man, the more I admire him."

Sen. Joker Arroyo noted that Ople's name always surfaced in the list of candidates for possible appointments since Ferdinand Marcos' time.

"There must be something in this man that whenever there's a job to be fulfilled, he's chosen even if he's on the other side," Arroyo said.

At the weekly Kapihan sa Manila Hotel, opposition Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel said the President paid their ranks an unwitting tribute with her appointment of Ople as foreign secretary.

Outstanding

The senators stopped squabbling and found one voice in extolling Ople.

Seven administration and opposition senators adopted Resolution No. 389, which was principally authored by Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda, and which hailed Ople as "an outstanding senator and dedicated public servant."

But Pimentel ribbed the administration bloc for now "delivering paeans" to Ople.

He issued the reminder that "we, including Senator Ople, were considered enemies of the administration senators or even the government." ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and Rocky Nazareno***

Victims say Pope remarks on sex abuse fall short

TORONTO—Some advocates for sex abuse victims said Pope John Paul II's first public comments on priests who molest children sent the wrong message: that the Roman Catholic Church cares more about clergy than those who were abused.

"They should be giving victims as much compassion as they're giving their fellow priests," said 47-year-old Jim Sacco, who won a settlement in his abuse claim against former Massachusetts priest John Geoghan, a pedophile and central figure in the US scandal.

"It would be nice for him to acknowledge the victims and say something on a positive note—that he's going to support them more aggressively," Sacco said in an interview from his Amherst, New Hampshire, home.

Janet Patterson of Conway Springs, Kansas, said the Pope should have encouraged the Toronto pilgrims to embrace victims as "brothers and sisters in Christ."

She blames the 1999 suicide of her 29-year-old son, Eric, on abuse by their parish priest when he was 12.

"I'd like to see a lot more attention put on prior victims who are still struggling through life, never having the chance to live the kind of life they should," she said in a phone interview.

The scandal erupted in January, then spread throughout the United States and beyond, after Boston Cardinal Bernard Law acknowledged allowing Geoghan to remain in parish work.

Geoghan is accused of molesting 130 children. About 300 of the 46,000 US priests have been taken off duty this year because of sex abuse allegations.

Law, in brief remarks to the media after the Mass, defended how he had handled molestation claims against clergy, saying his archdiocese had taken significant steps to improve its response.

"If you all would look at that, I think you would see that," the cardinal said.

David Clohessy, US national director of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, said the Pope should have said he was sorry for what victims had suffered.

But Sr. Mary Ann Walsh, a spokesperson for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the Mass was not an appropriate time for apologies, since most victims were now adults and Sunday's event was for the youngest members of the Church.

"He's speaking to the young people and I don't imagine many, if any, of these young people had been directly affected by sexual abuse," she said.

Walsh also noted that the Pope previously had called abuse a sin and expressed solidarity with victims.

"He couldn't get any stronger than, 'There's no place in religious life for anyone who abused a young person,'" she said, referring to the Pope's comments at a Vatican meeting in April with American cardinals summoned to discuss the scandal.

Paula Ford of Newton, Massachusetts, said she was glad the Pope spoke about the crisis, but she felt he missed a key chance to provide guidance to young Catholics.

Ford's son, Gregory, is among those who have filed civil lawsuits alleging abuse by the Rev. Paul Shanley. The 71-year-old priest has been charged with molesting boys from 1979 to 1989 while he served at a Newton church.

"The young people there, they're the future of the Church," Ford said. "I think I would have expected a real strong statement of commitment that it would never happen again." **AP**

'Miss Saigon' soon to be Mrs. Chien

From page A1

Sunday night (Monday afternoon in Manila), according to Lea's mother Ligaya.

The couple, both 31, will get married in Honolulu on Dec. 6, 2003—a date chosen based on Chinese numerology, Ligaya said.

"Besides," she added, "Lea has to finish so many commitments until next year, so they can't get married earlier than that."

Lea, who first made waves in London as "Miss Saigon" and went on to conquer the international theater circuit, phoned her mother yesterday to break the happy news.

"She told me, 'Guess what?'" Ligaya said. "It's not that I didn't know what I was supposed to guess. I already knew about it because Rob told me the last time he was here that he was going to give her an engagement ring."

Indeed, Ligaya was "expecting it to happen."

"The guy is very serious about her," the mother said. "But up to now, it hasn't really sunk in yet in my mind. But I'm happy for her."

Even Lea knew the marriage proposal was "just a matter of time," Ligaya said. "She's also happy about his choice of ring. She told me it was a 'good-looking' ring."

Ligaya described her daughter's intended husband, a customer relations technology expert, as "really a good boy."

"Initially, I was just taking him at face value," she said. "I had not known him that long. We just met on certain occasions. But when it's Lea who's talking about a certain person, you'd be convinced how good he really is."

Honolulu is where Rob's parents are based. "It will also be nearer for me when I travel there," Ligaya said.

She said Lea's younger brother Gerard was also happy about the engagement.

First meeting

Ligaya said it was actually Gerard, whose education at the Berklee College of Music in Boston Lea had financed, who first met Rob in Los Angeles.

The future lovebirds met there last November, while Lea was playing Mei-Li in the musical "Flower Drum Song." Rob's cousin Chris, a member of the cast, introduced them.

This was how Lea recalled meeting Rob in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER:

"When I was no longer in a relationship and we started technical rehearsals in LA, Chris heard about it and she said, 'You should go out with my cousin.' I told her, 'I don't know.'

"Then the opportunity presented itself. At a party, she made sure Rob and I sat beside each other and talked. She encouraged things. Rob and I just got along. Then we exchanged phone numbers."

Their first conversation on the phone lasted two hours.

"I couldn't believe it," Lea said. "It's been a long time since I had a conversation that long with anyone. Then we talked again the next day and we started talking every day, and every conversation was always so wonderful."

He invited her to dinner at a Korean restaurant. "When we finally went out, it was like we knew each other pretty well and we had a good time," she said.

It didn't take long for Lea to get into a serious involvement with Rob, who was her escort at the Tony Awards in New York last May.

It has apparently helped that he is not an actor, unlike her previous boyfriend, Korean-American Michael Lee, with whom she performed in the play "They're Playing Our Song" in Manila.

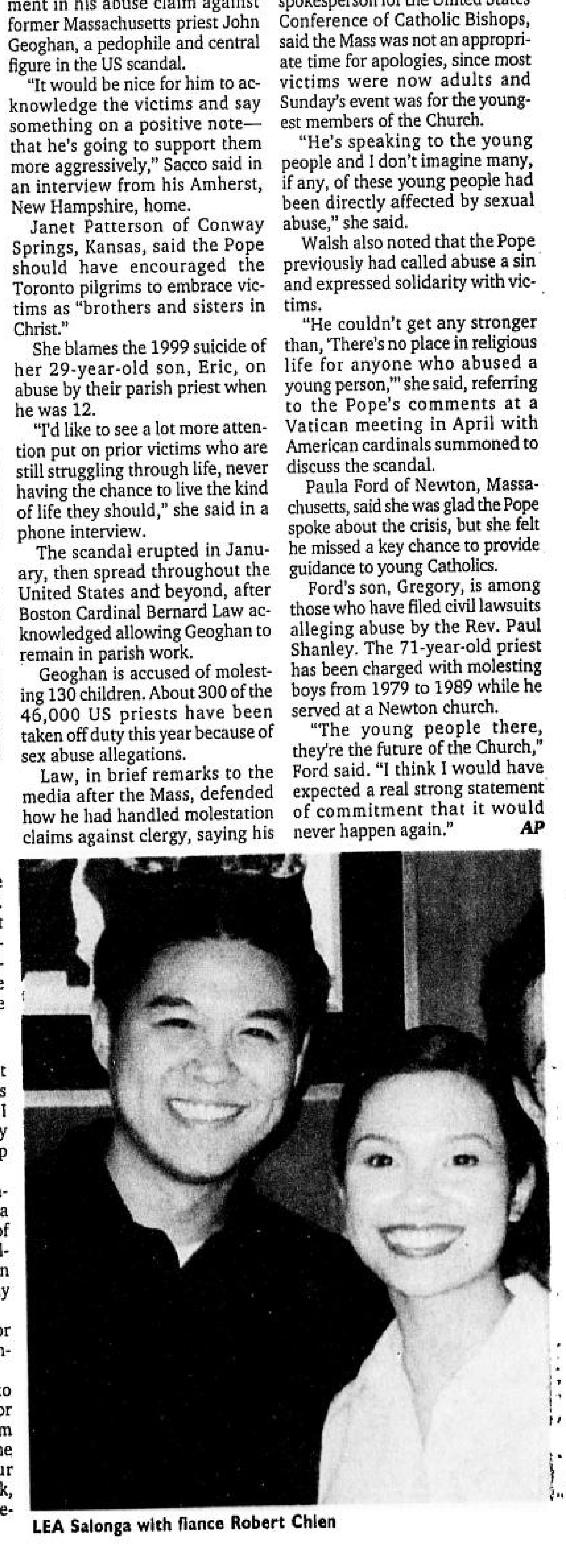
'Hard to find'

Lea said that when she first got to know Rob, "I told myself, 'This is the embodiment of everything I ever fell in love with and every guy I ever had a relationship with.' That's hard to find."

In January, Rob came to Manila for the first time to watch Lea in "Proof" and the first staging of her Broadway concert at the Philippine International Convention Center. He and Gerard got to play golf during his stay.

Rob came back last month for the repeat of Lea's Broadway concert at the same venue.

Lea is scheduled to return to the Broadway stage in October for the revival of "Flower Drum Song." After its 10-month run, she will go on a performance tour with shows planned in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Honolulu.



LEA Salonga with fiance Robert Chien

PBA Today (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Purefoods vs Selecta-RP
NCAA Results
SSC 83, JRU 75
PCU 88, SBC 69

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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Jenny close to $.2-M prize kitty

ROSALES

JENNY Rosales made brilliant recoveries from errant tee shots to salvage par-69 yesterday and finished solo 14th in the Sybase Big Apple Classic in New Rochelle, New York.

Jenny's 280 aggregate for 72 holes at the Wykagyl Country Club rewarded her with $14,630 (about P740,000) to stay in the Top 30 of the money list. She barely missed cracking the $200,000 mark in winnings with her $199,362 (nearly P10 million) in 17 starts.

The 23-year-old Rosales caught fire early with birdies on the first three holes, but missed another Top 10 finish by dropping strokes on the fifth and in the back nine.

Gloria Park defeated last year's Rookie of the Year awardee Hee Won Han with a birdie from seven feet in a sudden-death playoff to win the crown. Annika Sorenstam settled for third, failing to join the playoff by a mere stroke.

Dorothy Delasin tied for 20th at 282 after a 71. She won $9,982.

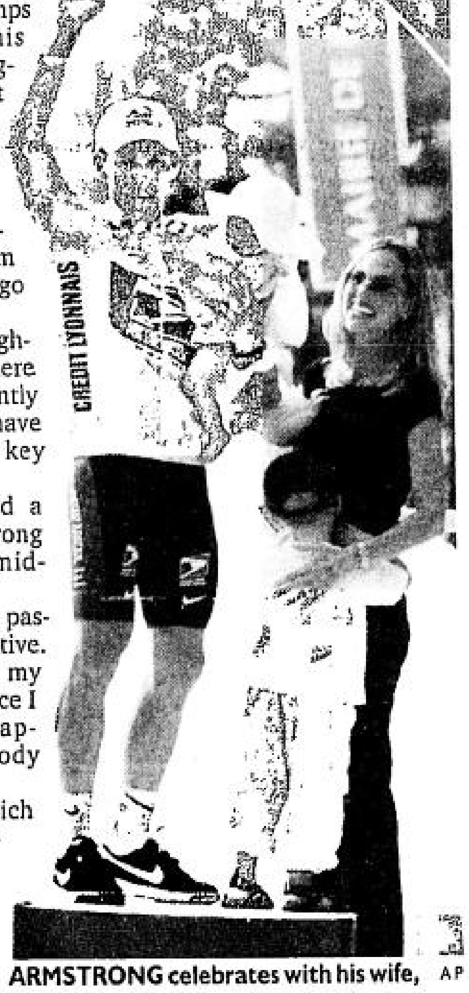
Rosales made a sorry double-bogey on the fifth before recovering with birdies on 7 and 9 as she hit 33 going out.

She birdied the 11th but gave it back on the 13th after making her seventh and last birdie for the day on the 15th, she bogeyed the 16th.

Jenny, who hit only nine fairways but still reached 15 greens in regulation, capped the round with a scrambling par on the 17th.

Jong Arcano

Armstrong Tour champ a 4th time



ARMSTRONG celebrates with his wife, Kristin, and kids after winning the Tour de France for the fourth straight time Sunday. AP

PARIS—Lance Armstrong's fourth consecutive Tour de France triumph on the Champs Elysees has guaranteed his place among a handful of legends from the world's biggest bike race.

Now, in order to join Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain definitively, the US Postal team leader has no choice but to go for a fifth title next year.

But have no fear. The tough-talking Texan is going nowhere fast, despite admitting recently his commitments to racing have caused him to miss some key family moments.

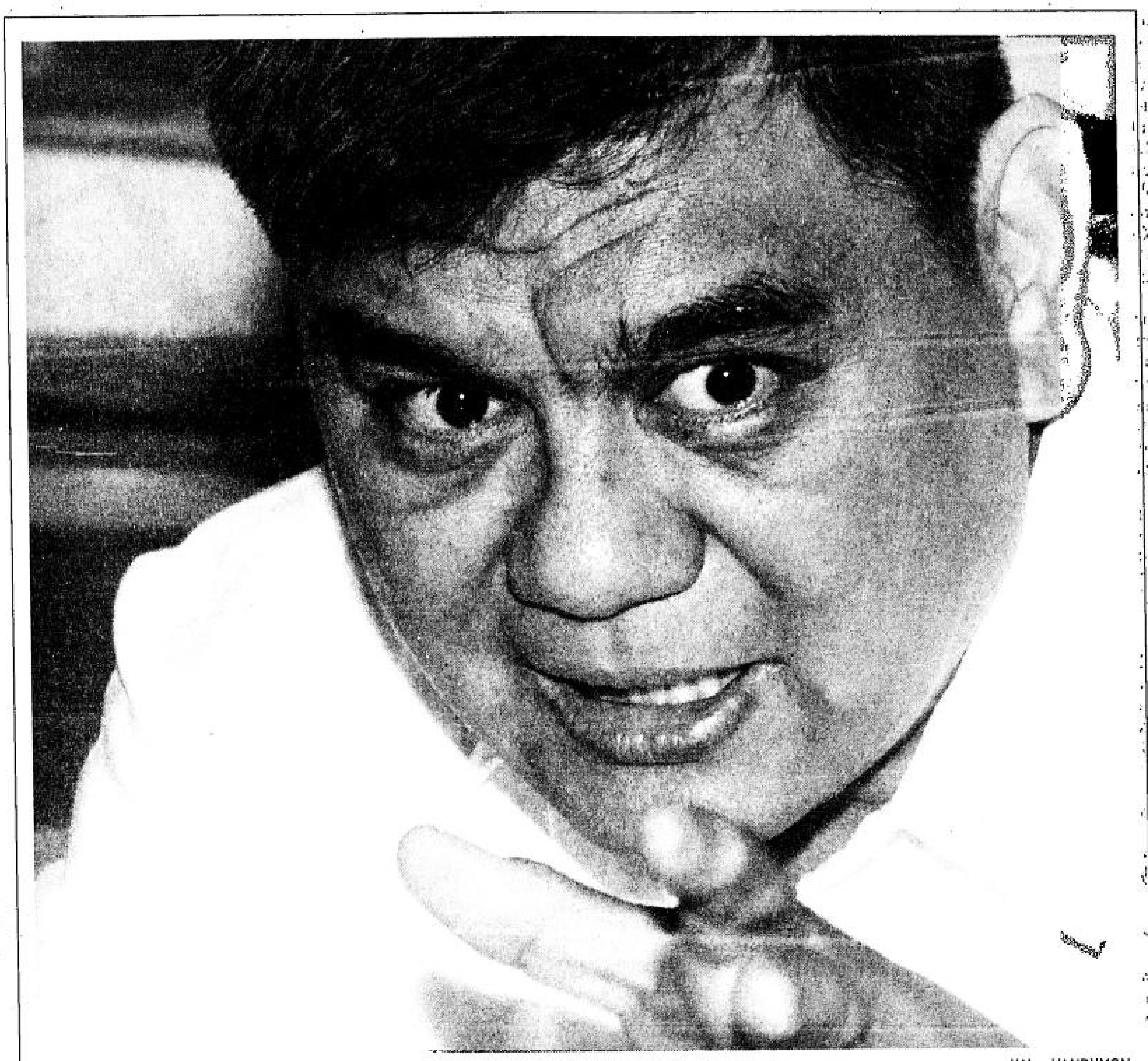
"I think I'll be around a couple more years," Armstrong affirmed at his hotel in mid-week.

Two days later he put his passion for the Tour in perspective.

"This is what I dedicate my entire life to. If I lost this race I would be extremely disappointed. More than anybody knows."

Given the ease with which Armstrong clinched his latest triumph, becoming in the process only the fifth rider to have won the Tour four times, he could easily win the race another two times, and rewrite Tour history in the process.

AFP


BARRIOS: Neither the logical nor the natural choice to replace Commissioner Bernardino. VAL HANDUMON

Hottest hint is, Barrios is it

'I am honored that the Commissioner has publicly endorsed me'

By Dennis U. Eroa

"IT is not logic, nor nature which will decide the new PBA commissioner."

Sonny Barrios, the frontrunner in the race to replace Commissioner Jun Bernardino, yesterday downplayed reports "he is the logical and natural choice" to fill the league's highest position.

In an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER, Barrios, the league's executive director, said there is no "succession principle" in the PBA.

"The only one with the full authority to pick the new commissioner is the PBA board. This is the beauty of the PBA structure which has remained solid throughout the years," Barrios said. "The commissioner reports to the board, which acts as a collegial body."

RP-Selecta team manager Elmer Yanga, a three-time executive of the year awardee by the PBA Press Corps, and former PBA chair Rey Gamboa of Shell are the other contenders for the post.

With the 55-year-old Bernardino endorsing Barrios as his successor, the 54-year-old Barrios is widely tipped to clinch the league's highest position.

Barrios was humble amid Bernardino's endorsement.

"He (Bernardino) doesn't even have to recommend me to the board. But I am grateful and honored that the commissioner publicly made the recommendation," Barrios said.

Barrios needs six of the eight votes from the board to succeed Bernardino.

There are 10 teams in the league. But four teams owned by the San Miguel Corporation (Purefoods, Coca-Cola, Ginebra and San Miguel Beer) are entitled to two votes only.

Barrios said there is no sense of urgency for the board to find a new commissioner.

Bernardino's legacy

"By announcing early that he is retiring, Commissioner Bernardino is actually giving the board enough time to find his replacement. He doesn't want to pressure the board," Barrios said. "I'll not be surprised if the board will not immediately name the new commissioner."

Barrios said Bernardino is leaving a legacy of bringing the games closer to the people.

"It's all about winning the hearts of the fans. Unknown to many, the commissioner and I made the rounds to tell competing teams the importance of giving their best in every game. Remember the Jaworski-Ginebra spirit?" Barrios said.

"If not for his medical condition, I'm quite sure the commissioner will have stayed a little longer. His desire to serve the league is intact," Barrios said.

Bernardino is going to the United States middle of August for a medical checkup. He will next scout the RP Team's opposition in the Asiad competing in the World Basketball Championship set in Indianapolis.

If picked as commissioner, Barrios said he intends to continue "the good work" of Bernardino.

"I'm going to be creative but will of course cling to time-tested tradition," said Barrios.

Bernardino and Barrios are bosom buddies since their elementary days at Ateneo's Loyola campus. Bernardino recruited Barrios to the PBA as his assistant in 1984. Bernardino was then Commissioner Leo Prieto's executive secretary.

"I learned a lot from the PBA forefathers," said Barrios, for years the league's finance officer.

Jun B. bids goodbye

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino yesterday formalized his retirement at the end of the year but left the door open for the league's Board of Governors to seek a worthy replacement at the Edsa Shangrila Plaza Hotel.

Bernardino also said the league is open to the idea of a mid-season draft to cater for talented players who were sidelined by the recent demise of the MBA.

"It is something we will look into. But while we symphathize with the players who lost their jobs in the MBA, we understand that by holding a draft several players would also lose their jobs ," said Bernardino.

June Navarro

Schumi grabs 5th F1 crown

SCHUMACHER

HOCKENHEIM—Newly crowned world champion Michael "Schumi" Schumacher made it a perfect homecoming with a victory in the German Grand Prix here Sunday.

Ferrari ace Schumacher, who secured a record-equalling fifth world title last week, clinched his ninth win of the season to the delight of his home fans.

Williams' Juan-Pablo Montoya was second, with Schumacher's younger brother Ralf third.

Afterwards Schumacher said he was delighted to have finally won in Germany for Ferrari. His only previous success came with Benetton in 1995.

"You can imagine how much I have been dreaming for this result. We have been so successful the past three years but this particular race in Germany in Hockenheim wasn't supposed to be mine," Michael said.

AFP

MBA produces heroes; a brand-new Jenny

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE LAST of The Mohicans tried to stop the bleeding in the MBA. Sadly, they could not. The gangrene had already spread to deathly proportions even before they could start meaningful medication, let alone a major surgery. It was but a matter of time before the league breathed its last.

It should be stressed here, though, that those who tried to save the league were a bunch of courageous men. They were like ship skippers of the old mold: they were the last to abandon ship.

Who said this land has run out of men of honor?

Trouble started when ABS-CBN left the cause. When FedEx followed suit, the horizons darkened. Doomsday was near. With mounting debts and all, the league had no recourse left but to close shop.

The bitter lesson: You can't fight the PBA. An institution like the PBA is always a tower of power. The PBA-MBA tussle was like a case of the egg-and-the-stone. Eggs can never quarrel with stones. A mismatch. Let this be a warning to future challengers of the 27-year-old PBA.

■

What's the secret behind the resurgence of Jenny Rosales?

Nothing really.

As Benny Gopez said, Jenny has what it takes to be a great golfer.

"Swing-wise, Jenny's is much better than Dorothy's (Delasin)," said Benny, who knows talent when he sees one. "She just lacked focus at the start that's why she struggled a bit."

Dorothy is the exemplar of brute force while Jenny is the classic swing that will surely last.

Dorothy typifies power as in Tyson's jarring punches. Jenny exhibits the grace as in Ali's calculating, if not precise, 1-2 combinations.

Dorothy surged ahead, leaving Jenny to eat her dust when both invaded the LPGA backyard.

That's because Dorothy was not only hungrier than Jenny; she was more focused than Jenny.

Dorothy, whose pro debut was launched with help from local allies who put up a benefit tournament on her behalf, started out in the LPGA with a near-empty pocket. In contrast, Jenny barely knew how it felt to lose a tournament because she embarked with a wallet thick with cash. While Dorothy subsisted on hamburgers for lunch in between rounds, with her tournament budget meticulously accounted for up to the last penny, Jenny practically went to each tournament as though she was going to a picnic. Win or lose, Jenny couldn't care less. There was always food waiting on the table.

And, yes, while Dorothy put her mind into the game, Jenny did the reverse. Jenny put her game on the side while her mind wandered somewhere else.

■

But it was not for long when things finally changed for the better for the one-time queen of Philippine amateur golf.

First, Jenny had enlisted his brother, Gerald, as his caddy. Next, she got hold of Bong Lopez, the many-time national player and coach of several RP Teams. She made Bong her teaching pro.

I saw Bong at the airport before he boarded his PAL jet for the Ladies US Open on July 1.

"I'm going to Kansas to accept Jenny's offer to be her coach," he said, beaming.

Two weeks later, I read in one US newspaper that Jenny placed seventh in the US Open.

I found myself saying, "Jenny has arrived."

Dorothy? She did make some changes, too. She left the family home in San Francisco, shacked up with her caddy in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and lived an entirely new world revolving only around her and Clint, the caddy.

This time, Dorothy's golf seems to be on hold.

A reversal of roles, it would seem.

Padilla breaks RP pistol record, credits pa for it

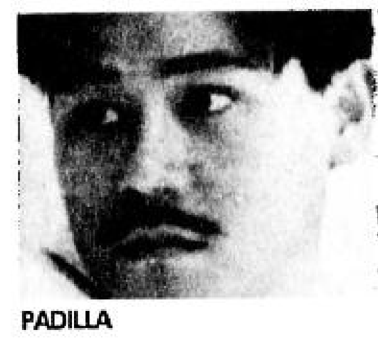
MULTI-TITLED Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla fired 572 points last weekend to establish a new Philippine record in the standard pistol competition of the ongoing national shooting eliminations for the Busan Asian Games at the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio.

The 37-year-old Padilla, general manager of Spring Cooking Oil, shot 189, 193 and 190 in the 150-, 20- and 10-second stages, respectively, to erase the 569 mark he set on Oct. 27 last year.

"I felt good throughout the competition. My timing was near perfect and I didn't feel any pressure at all," said the veteran internationalist after his easy victory over Carlos Vincent Medina, who tallied 533, and Arthur Cabinian, who carded 528.

Tac credited his father, former Olympian Mariano "Tom" Ong, for helping him in his preparation.

Padilla also dominated his two favorite events—rapid fire pistol and center fire pistol. He shot 572 points to beat Medina (561) and his brother Donald Padilla (528) in the rapid fire and 574 to rout Gilbert Escobar (559) and Medina (557) in the center fire. In the center fire, Padilla tallied 93, 95, 94 for 282 in precision and 98, 98 and 96 for 292 in dueling.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Pacquiao: I know nothing about Elorde's termination

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PACQUIAO

WORLD boxing champion Manny Pacquiao finally broke his silence yesterday regarding the raging word war between his two managers by saying he had no hand in it.

"It's a good thing I was in Mindanao when it broke out," Pacquiao told the INQUIRER in Filipino in a long distance phone interview. "As much as possible, I don't want to get involved in that because it will only affect my training."

Marty Elorde, Pacquiao's business manager, had threatened to sue Pacquiao and Rod Nazario for "illegal dismissal."

Pacquiao had allegedly fired Elorde. But Elorde said his contract with Pacquiao does not end until 2005.

Nazario, Pacquiao's other manager, said he was ready to face "Elorde in court."

Pacquiao said he would not try to settle the feud between Elorde and Nazario.

And, in a strange twist, Pacquiao said he knew nothing about a document that had purportedly terminated the services of Elorde.

Elorde had said the document, faxed to him allegedly by the Games and Amusements Board bore the signature of Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, the reigning IBF junior featherweight champion, said he would rather immerse himself in training and spending time with his wife and two kids in their home in Gen. Santos City rather than "engage in their quarrel."

He said that apart from his training regimen, he's also busy taking care of his two kids, Manny Jr. and Michael Steven, aged 1-and-6 months and 8 months, respectively.

When asked if he was willing to initiate reconciliation talks between Elorde and Nazario, the champion replied: "Hindi na siguro. (Maybe not anymore)."

He said he has not spoken with either Elorde or Nazario.

Elorde had earlier said he was amenable to a friendly negotiation with Nazario and the champion.

But Pacquiao said he would not attend the GAB meeting set for Aug. 8.

Shooting seminar slated

THE 2002 Defense & Sporting Arms Show set for Aug. 1-5 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, EDSA will host a seminar on "Shooting as a Sport" to be conducted by Orlando S. Marquez of the Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA).

The PNSA is a member of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and recognized by the Philippine Sport Commission (PSC) as the National Sports Association (NSA) for the sport of shooting in the country.

The PNSA is composed of the ISSF rifle, ISSF pistol, ISSF moving target (shotgun), practical shooting and air guns.

The PNSA is responsible for the promotion and development of the shooting sport especially in the recruitment, training and formation of the Philippine Shooting Team for international competitions like the South East Asian Games (SEAG), Asian Games, World Cup and Olympic Games.

The PNSA has a grassroots development program where the masses can participate in the competition and this is the air gun shooting.

SPORTSWATCH

Venus rules West Classic

PALO ALTO, California—Venus Williams played virtually flawless tennis to ease past defending champion Kim Clijsters 6-3 6-3 to win the Bank of the West Classic on Sunday. "I'd like to think that for someone to beat me, they would have to play an almost perfect match," Venus said. "Kim brought out the best in me today and if someone brings out her "A" game and doesn't win, it must confuse them as to what to do.".

La Salle, FEU prevail

DE LA SALLE played true to form but Far Eastern University had to go the extra mile in bagging opening-day victories in the 65th University Athletic Association of the Philippines women's volleyball tournament Sunday. The Green Archers ripped last season's third placer Adamson University, 25-22, 25-17, 25-13 in 58 minutes, while the Far Eastern Lady Tamaraws beat University of Santo Tomas, 25-15, 25-21, 23-25, 25-14.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: ATP Mercedes-Benz Cup, Semifinal at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Masters Series (Toronto), Early Round Coverage Day #1 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA John Deere Classic, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Final Round at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

RP faces Indonesia in Seaba

By Roy Luarca

KUALA LUMPUR—The Burlington-Philippine Youth Team begins its campaign in the 3rd Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) Men's Junior Championship when it tackles Indonesia at 7 tonight at the MABA Gym here.

Missing the services of four players standing 6-foot-5 and above due to ongoing school leagues back home, the Filipinos will be parading a smaller roster than the Indons, whose average height is 6-foot-2.

Head coach Jonny Tam, however, believes that his wards, averaging 6-foot-1 in ceiling, will be able to compensate with their speed and fighting spirit.

"This team may be small, but it is big in character and determination," said Tam. "The players have also bonded and blended well."

Tam and assistant coaches Ching Marcelino and Rene Baena conducted practice drills yesterday and have scheduled another workout this morning to fine-tune their play patterns.

Composing the team sent here by the Basketball Association of the Philippines are Mark Lester Benitez, the only legitimate center left at 6-foot-6; Jerson Torculas, Miguel Lindaya, Jonathan Fernandez, Jayfelson Agbayani, Benjamin Gadi, Michael Vincent Baldos, Hermes Sumalinog Jr., Kevin Rae Astorga, Raymond Pacurib, Mark Louie Pradas, Roel Aurelio Escueta and team captain Paul Nikki Fedelicio.

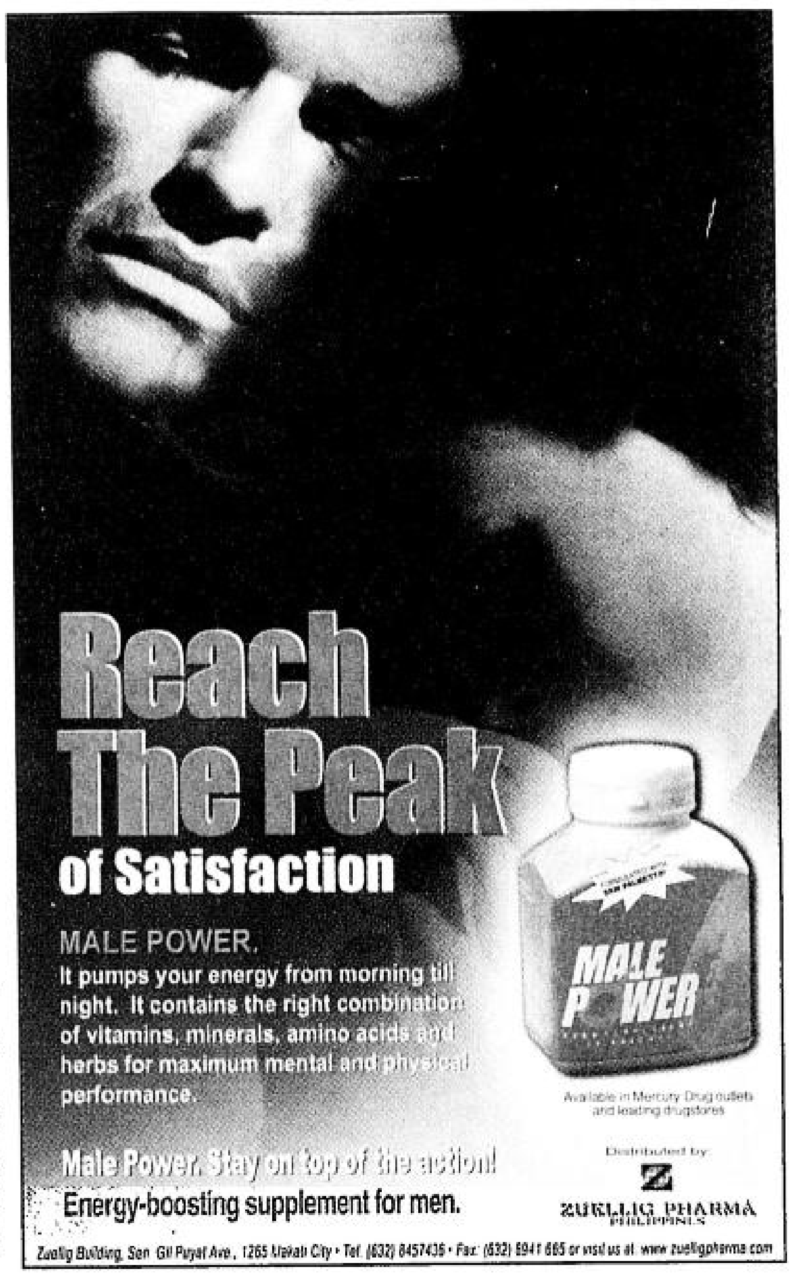
Guba bags 12-under tennis crown

LA CARLOTA—Nine-year-old Martina Guba made her local fans proud last weekend following a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Macy Solon of Dumaguete to capture the girls' 12-under division of the 2002 Milo junior tennis cup and regional workshop here.

However, Guba failed to become a double champion after Cebuano Bernardine Siso overwhelmed the Negrense, 6-3, 6-2, in the unisex 10-under in the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Television Workshop and supported by adidas and Sports Kids.

The event was sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association.

Guba and Siso shared the limelight with Gerard Bergavera in the boys' 12-under, Jade dela Cruz in the boys' 14-under, Janjie Soquino in the boys' 16-under, Patrick Escobar in the boys' 18-under, Floresna Alesna in the girls' 14-under and Alyssa Labay in the girls' 16 and 18-under events.



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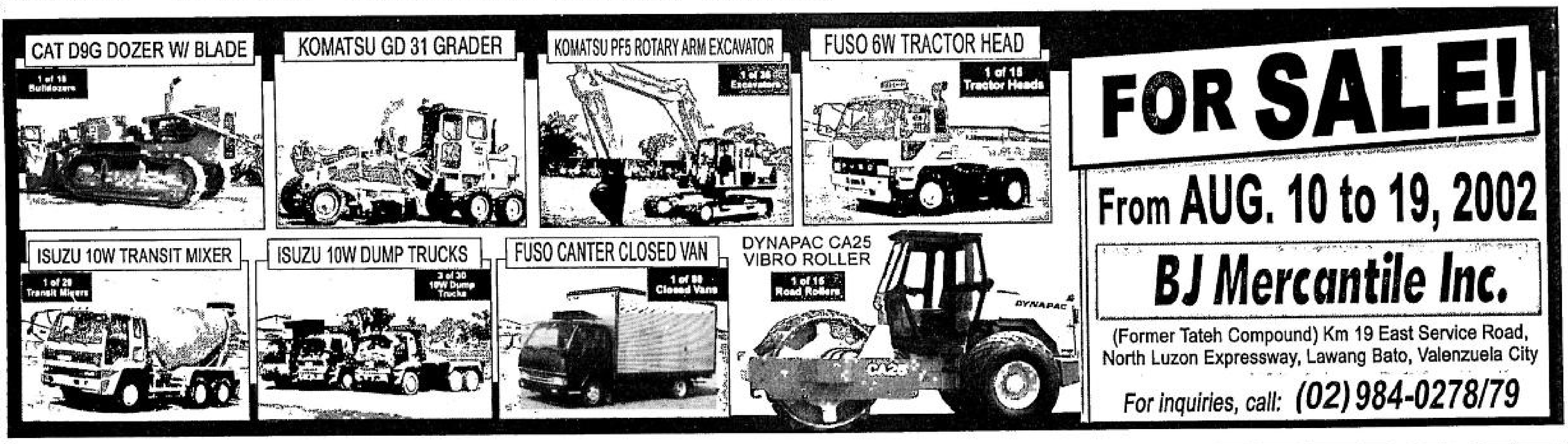

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

4 killed in Forbes Park; not a drag race, say cops

By Leila B. Salaverria

BARANGAY Forbes Park Chair Jose Concepcion yesterday said he would seek the help of several government agencies in putting safety precautions along McKinley Road and in deploying police officers to catch speed limit violators.

Concepcion made this declaration a day after Jureza A. de Leon, 18, daughter of Meycauayan's chief of police Supt. Jaime Zamora de Leon and three other people died in a vehicular accident on McKinley Road early Sunday morning.

De Leon, of Sevilla Street, 10th Avenue, Caloocan City, died on the spot after her blue 1998 Lancer smashed into an acacia tree when she swerved to avoid a head-on collision with an oncoming vehicle, police said.

She was racing with a green Toyota Corolla that Russel P. Valerio, 29, was driving, police said. Valerio, of Scout Chuatoco Street in Quezon City, also died on the spot after he hit another tree

4 KILLED/p. A24

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Tondo fire victims get nipa huts and dignity

By Volt L. Contreras

A NEW approach to rebuilding ruined communities has rediscovered the "dignity" of the lowly *bahay kubo*.

Rows of bamboo huts now line the Baseco compound, a slum area in Tondo, Manila, which fire razed on March 30. The huts house the families the fire had displaced.

The rows seem like a strip of rented beach cottages during peak season, and in Baseco, they are not out of place standing there and facing Manila Bay. But the bleak truth is that the occupants of these "transition homes" are now picking up their lives, literally from the ashes.

According to Alicia Bala, director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development National Capital Region, "this is a far better arrangement than making them stay in cramped evacuation centers while they await the complete reconstruction of their homes and community."

She said the government's effort to shelter disaster victims using nipa huts is unique since it is the first to involve the mass production of *bahay kubo*..

"Of course it's still a short-term undertaking," she said, since the area awaits full development by the city government of Manila.

"But we believe there is some measure of dignity in housing them this way rather than just keeping them in tents or other make-shift shelters," Bala said.

The concept came from no less that President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, Bala said.

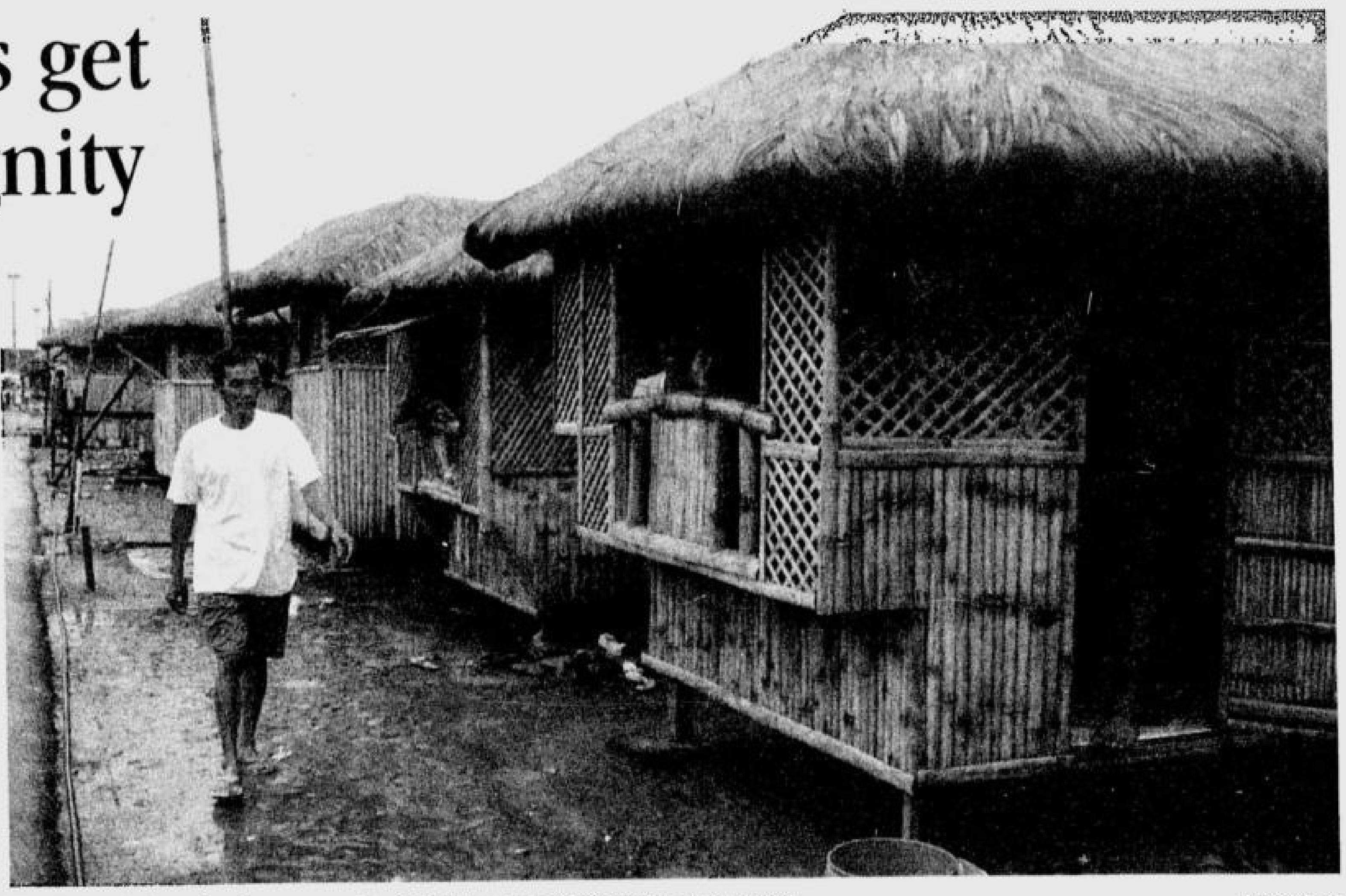
She said that weeks after the fire, local officials told Ms Macapagal during an on-site visit that the ground must be left to "settle" first for at least a year before it would be stable enough for concrete houses to be built.

So the President brought up the idea of giving *bahay kubos* to the victims, who by then were being processed for lot assignments by the DSWD and Manila's local social welfare unit. Bala said this allowed the families to immediately occupy the land, even in small light-weight homes.

Luzviminda Zacaria, 42, a Baseco resident who lost her two-story concrete house in the fire, swore "this is much better than the evacuation center," pointing to a hut which she now shares with her security guard husband and 7-year-old daughter.

"All you need is to keep your surroundings clean and things can be manageable for now," she said.

Zacarias' positive attitude seems to overcome the lack of a permanent power supply and running water in the cluster of huts to which her own belongs. She has reason to hope for better days ahead: Baseco has reemerged from a chaotic neighborhood to a pocket of conscious urban planning. Newly laid, two-lane asphalt roads now divide the area in uniform grids. Pegs on the ground define lot borders.



HOME for the homeless is a community of 90 "bahay kubo" built by the government.

JOAN BONDOC

Bala said P7.5 million had been released from the President's Social Fund for the construction of 500 *bahay kubos*.

The DSWD, which was tasked to manage the fund and help process Baseco beneficiaries, has in turn tapped one of its accredited NGOs--8000 Foundation--to source the huts from manufacturers mainly in the provinces.

Engineer Roland Morales, whom the foundation assigned to oversee the building of the huts, said 103 units have been occupied as of Sunday. The first batches of nipa huts arrived on June 18.

All the 500 huts are expected to be in place by Aug. 18, Morales said.

Each hut is 6 feet by 10 feet, and comes with an enclosed sleeping area and built-in sink. The bamboo floor is laid one foot above the ground.

Bala said each hut cost P15,000 to build, but the beneficiaries get the huts for free since the structures are considered relief assistance.

PASINOS EXITS

5 cops charged, 8 inmates escape

By Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria

"*TAPOS na* (It is over)."

Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. said this as he broke into a smile after relinquishing his post as head of the Western Police District yesterday.

Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong took over to become the 44th Manila police chief after a simple turnover ceremony at the WPD headquarters. Bulaong was a security aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo whe she was still vice president.

The day of the departure of Pasinos, however, was marked by the arrest of two suspected bookies in Manila and the escape of eight inmates from the WPD jail.

The arrest of the suspected bookies, however, led to the relief and investigation of five policemen members of Task Force Jericho for robbery and extortion.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina ordered the relief and investigation of the five policemen.

WPD officers on Sunday arrested SPO1 Jesus Acejo, PO2 Ricardo Luciano, Jr., and Police Officers 1 Danilo Hamila, Fred Fara-on and Manolito Prado after the latter brought gambling paraphernalia and two arrested women to Acejo's residence in Sta. Ana.

The women were identified as suspected bookie workers Rose Martinez and Michelle del Mundo, said to be a daughter of WPD's PO3 Bonifacio Abad.

The five officers brought the women and the confiscated objects to Acejo's house, saying the task force members would conduct another operation.

WPD officers arrested the five men after they returned from their supposed second anti-gambling operation. The five are detained at the WPD headquarters.

Also yesterday at the WPD headquarters integrated jail, duty officer SPO3 Danilo Dorado went to the toilet after midnight because he was suffering, he said, from diarrhea. When he returned to his post, eight inmates had escaped.

Dorado said he left the jail keys in his desk drawer near the men's cell before he went to the toilet at the female detention cell.

Police identified the eight as robbery suspects John Mazulot, Jessie Costantino, Punzal Mawari, Sabanli Habib, and Rogelly Fuentes; suspected drug peddlers Jesus Nino Capinding and Arthur Gumandel; and acts of lasciviousness suspect Tony Villar.

Mazulot, Constantino, Mawari and Villar have been recaptured.

New WPD chief Bulaong later ordered the disarming of Dorado and jail warden Insp. Juanito Dizon.

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (Swat) team arrested three of the inmates on Romualdez Street, about two blocks away. Villar's grandmother surrendered him yesterday morning.

Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo Jr., chief of the General Assignment Section, said criminal charges of infidelity while in the custody of prisoners and serious neglect of duty would be filed against Dorado and Dizon.

At the turnover rite yesterday afternoon, Bulaong declared: "I would like to assure the citizens of Manila of a big change in your police force."

Pasinos said he did not know where he would be assigned next.

2 Japanese fall in QC buy-bust

QUEZON City police on Sunday night arrested Japanese nationals Hideyuki Hirimito, 62, of BF Homes, Parañaque, and Watanabe Yosiyaki, 52, of San Marcelino Street, Ermita, Manila, allegedly in the act of selling shabu.

Reports from the Central Police District Station 1 said the two were arrested at 11:30 p.m. in front of the Lialine Music Bar on Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

Police learned that the two men were selling illegal drugs, mainly shabu. Police set up a buy-bust trap with PO3 John Tirona acting as the buyer.

4 killed . . .

From p. A23

when he tried to dodge the same vehicle De Leon was avoiding.

Police identified the two others who died as Valerio's brother Randy, 27, and Mark Allen del Rio of Caloocan City.

Injured were Mark Angelo Tolentino, 23, of Caloocan City; Paolo Dagumboy, 21, of Malabon; and Fiorel Ginete Rono, 29, of Makati City.

Insp. Gilbert Loteria, assistant chief for operations of the traffic division, said the two vehicles were probably not in a drag race but were just trying to outrun each other. He said that if they had been drag racing, they would not have had several companions in their cars.

Reports from the Makati Police Traffic Division said the cars driven by De Leon and Valerio were running neck and neck on McKinley Road near the Santuario de de San Antonio and were trying to outrun each other. Valerio was trying to overtake De Leon when an oncoming vehicle caused the two to swerve to different directions to avoid a collision, at about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, the police reports said.

De Leon swerved to the right and rammed into an acacia, while Valerio swerved to the left, and hit the pavement before slamming into another tree. Both vehicles were total wrecks, police said.

Randy Valerio was riding with his brother Russel, while Del Rio was De Leon's companion in her car, police said.

Concepcion said there are a lot of speeding motorists on McKinley, but the road is not really a place where drag races are held. They have yet to receive reports of drag races being held on McKinley, he said.

He said he would speak with officials of the Philippine National Police, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Metro Manila Development Authority as well as the Makati Public Safety Department to help prevent similar accidents.

Dealer sentenced to death for carrying P600,000-shabu

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEATH sentence has been meted out to businessman Donaldo Padilla, 40, who the court said yielded shabu worth about P600,000 in Las Piñas City six years ago.

Judge Bonifacio Sanz Maceda also fined Padilla P2 million.

Insp. Virgilio Pelaez and SPO2 Mabini Rosale arrested Padilla at BF Homes Las Piñas at dawn on Dec. 20, 1995.

About two hours before the arrest, the officers had gone to the house of Padilla's wife Malou at BF Homes to serve a search warrant. They were told the couple had left on board a car (UBD-109).

A security guard later informed the policemen that Padilla and his two associates "in the shabu business" had just returned to the village on board a car, court records showed.

Rosale and Pelaez flagged down a red Corolla and found Padilla hiding in its compartment. Padilla yielded a total of 400.6 grams of shabu contained in a blue clutch bag, the policemen said.

Padilla told the court he was arrested because he had refused to shell out P200,000 which he said a certain Colonel Alcantara demanded when he was brought to the police station in Kamuning, Quezon City.

But Judge Maceda said Padilla failed to prove that authorities had indeed tried to extort money from him.

GMA should sack DOH and drug chiefs

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

UNLESS President Macapagal-Arroyo fires Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and Food and Drug Director William Torres, she will not be completely successful in bringing down the prices of medicines.

The two officials have allegedly been preventing the bulk importation by the government of cheap medicines for the poor.

Both Dayrit and Torres are former executives of United Laboratories, one of the companies adversely affected by the importation of basic medicines. Their loyalty still lies with their former employer, Unilab.

***

The Macapagal-Arroyo administration has been importing cheap medicines from India through the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC). The move is meant to ease poverty lowering the price of basic medicines so that they will be within the reach of poor patients.

Prices of basic medicines are prohibitive in this country. For example, an Adalat Retard, 20 mg tablet, a maintenance drug for hypertension, sells at P36.25 in drug stores. The same brand of medicine imported from India sells for P5.75 in pharmacies of government hospitals, a price difference of P30.50 !

***

But the government, through the PITC, cannot import as much cheap medicines as it would want to because the Bureau of Food and Drug, an agency under the Department of Health, is not cooperating.

The BFAD, according to my sources at the PITC, takes its own sweet time approving the importation and distribution in the market of cheap medicines from India. The imported medicines have the same potency as the ones manufactured here by multinational drug companies.

Pharmacies of government hospitals in the provinces always run out of cheap medicines from India because they're very much in demand from indigent patients. Those medicines are in short supply, thanks, but no thanks, to Dayrit and Torres whose loyalty is still to their former employer and not to the government.

***

The President is reportedly looking around for Torres' replacement because he has become a problem, rather than an asset, in her administration's effort to put basic medicines within the reach of the poor.

But Dayrit has reportedly been asking her to defer her relief of Torres.

What GMA needs is a doctor who has been treating poor patients to head the BFAD. Not a doctor who protects the interests of multinational firms.

***

If I may suggest, why doesn't the President consider Dr. Benny Santos, who's a consultant at the East Avenue Medical Center? Santos has been in that government hospital for a number of years. He is an ear, nose and throat specialist and most of his patients are poor.

I understand somebody has sent the Presidential Management Staff the resumé of the soft-spoken Santos, a graduate of Ateneo.

***

If Khadafi Janjalani, one of the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf, had not escaped from Camp Crame--as did Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar years after--perhaps the Abu Sayyaf would not have become such a big problem.

Janjalani, who has a $1-million price on his head offered by the US government, was arrested by the Marines in Sulu in 1995 for the kidnapping of an engineer and two assistants. The engineer and his assistants were earlier rescued by members of the Second Marine Brigade under then Brig. Gen. Ponciano Millena.

Janjalani, at the time in his late teens or early 20s, was confined at the Sulu Provincial Jail before he was turned over to the Camp Crame detention cell.

***

While he was at the Sulu Provincial Jail, Janjalani and his companions who were arrested with him bragged to their fellow detainees about the Abu Sayyaf. They boasted that the Abu Sayyaf was planning to attack a town in Zamboanga del Sur.

General Millena, who had placed spies among the detainees, reported the raw intelligence report to the Southern Command headquarters, then headed by Maj. Gen. Regino Lacson. Millena's report was ignored.

A few days later, Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, was attacked by armed Moros, resulting in the killing of 68 civilians, soldiers and policemen.

***

Looking back at Janjalani's escape from the Camp Crame jail, Millena, now retired, wonders how he could have escaped from the tightly guarded Camp Crame detention center.

Probably, Millena says, he was made a government asset to spy on his fellow bandits within the Abu Sayyaf. But the spy project apparently failed because Janjalani even became a leader of the Abu Sayyaf.

"It's just too bad for all the kidnap victims," Millena rues.

***

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***

But what the dealers of the Japanese bikes don't say is that most Japanese cars and motorcycles are now made in China. Japanese manufacturers are availing themselves of highly-skilled and cheap labor in China.

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(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 JIHAD WARRIORS
2 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
4 BUSINESS PLEASURES

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
2
3
4 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
5 THIRD WHEEL
6 DOG SOLDIER
7 (DTS) MEGIDDO
8 (SDDS) SORORITY BOYS
9 (DOLBY) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 KAPALIT
2 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
3 DOG SOLDIER
4 (SDDS) MEGIDDO
5 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
7 (DTS) SORORITY BOYS
8 KATAWAN MO . . .
9 FOREVERMORE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
5 (SDDS) MEN IN BLACK 2
6 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 (DOLBY) SORORITY BOYS
8 MEGIDDO

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 MEGIDDO
2 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3 (DTS) DOG SOLDIER
4 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
5 (SDDS) MEN IN BLACK 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson PONOGRAPHER
Lords
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MEGIDDO
2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
2 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3 RESERVE
4 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
5 MEGIDDO

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
2 MEN IN BLACK 2

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
2 MEN IN BLACK 2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
3 (DTS) MEN IN BLACK 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MONSTER BALL
2 (DTS) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
4 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MONSTER BALL
2 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
3 (DTS) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 KAPALIT
2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 BAD COMPANY
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 KAPALIT
2 BAD COMPANY
3 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
4 (DTS) POWERPUFF GIRLS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
2 DROGA
3 HIYAS
4 (DTS) HANGGANG KAILAN . . .

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 (DTS) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 SELDA
5 MONSTER BALL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 MEN IN BLACK 2
2 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3 SELDA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 MEN IN BLACK 2
2 BAD COMPANY
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) SELDA
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SUGAT
2 BAD COMPANY
3 KAPALIT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MEN IN BLACK 2
2 POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 MONSTER BALL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) HIGH CRIMES
2 KAPALIT
3 (DTS) MEN IN BLACK 2
4 BIG FAT LIAR

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CMG INTERNATIONAL

"EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS"
Starring: DAVID ARQUETTE
R TIME : 1:35 RATING : PG - 13
DATE : JULY 29 - 30 (Monday & Tuesday)

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OLIVAREZ - LOS BAÑOS

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 DOG SOLDIERS
2 MINORITY REPORT
3 MEN IN BLACK II
4 SORORITY BOYS
5 8 LEGGED FREAKS
6 MEGIDDO
7 FRUIT IS SWELLING
8 FOREVERMORE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 SORORITY BOYS
2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 DOG SOLDIERS
5 MEN IN BLACK 2
6 KAPALIT
7 MEGIDDO
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 MINORITY REPORT
10 THIRD WHEEL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 BAD COMPANY
2 MINORITY REPORT
3 MEN IN BLACK II
4 8 LEGGED FREAKS
5 MEGIDDO
6 FOREVERMORE
7 SORORITY BOYS
8 DOG SOLDIERS
9 KAPALIT
10 MEN IN BLACK II
11 SUGAT
12 CASS & CARY

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 SORORITY BOYS
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 MEN IN BLACK 2
4 MEGIDDO
5 DOG SOLDIERS
6 THIRD WHEEL
7 BIG FAT LIAR
8 HIGH CRIMES
9 MEN IN BLACK 2
10 FOREVERMORE
11 KAPALIT
12 MINORITY REPORT

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 BIG FAT LIAR
2 MEGIDDO
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 MEN IN BLACK II
5 DOG SOLDIERS
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 FOREVERMORE
8 MINORITY REPORT
9 SORORITY BOYS
10 MEN IN BLACK 2
11 HIGH CRIMES
12 THE THIRD WHEEL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 MINORITY REPORT
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 THIRD WHEEL
4 DOG SOLDIERS
5 SORORITY BOYS
6 8 LEGGED FREAKS
7 MEGIDDO
8 MEN IN BLACK II

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 SORORITY BOYS
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 DOG SOLDIERS
5 THE THIRD WHEEL
6 HANGGANG KAILAN . . .
7 KAPALIT
8 MEN IN BLACK II
9 MINORITY REPORT
10 MEGIDDO

SM CITY CEBU
2313676
1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 JUST VISITING
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 BIG FAT LIAR
5 POWERPUFF GIRLS
6 CROSSROADS
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 MEN IN BLACK II

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 JUST VISITING
2 CLOSED
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
5 KAPALIT
6 MEN IN BLACK II
7 CLOSED
8 A WALK TO REMEMBER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 BIG FAT LIAR
4 CASS & CARY
5 KATAWAN MO . . .
6 HIGH CRIMES

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 SORORITY BOYS
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 MEGIDDO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 8 LEGGED FREAKS
2 SORORITY BOYS
3 MEGIDDO
4 MEN IN BLACK II

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 KAPALIT
3 BIG FAT LIAR
4 JUST VISITING
5 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
6 MEN IN BLACK 2

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
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THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
6389781-85 loc 120
1 MEN IN BLACK II
11:00 MF / 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 10:30 / 11:00 LMF / 12:40 END
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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633- 7641 loc. 279
1 THX MEN IN BLACK II
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 THIRD WHEEL
4 SORORITY BOYS
5 MEGIDDO
6 DOG SOLDIER
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 HIGH CRIMES
9 BAD COMPANY
10 KAPALIT

Ermita
536 -7809- 12
1 DOG SOLDIER
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 SORORITY BOYS
4 THIRD WHEEL
5 MINORITY REPORT
6 KAPALIT
7 MEGIDDO

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 THIRD WHEEL
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 MINORITY REPORT
4 MEGIDDO
5 HIGH CRIMES
6 DOG SOLDIER
7 SORORITY BOYS
8 KAPALIT

Novaliches
935- 3279 - 30
1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 RESERVED
3 THIRD WHEEL
4 HIGH CRIMES
5 MEGIDDO
6 MINORITY REPORT
7 DOG SOLDIER
8 SORORITY BOYS

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 MEGIDDO
2 SORORITY BOYS
3 DOG SOLDIER
4 MEN IN BLACK II
5 FRUIT IS SWELLING
6 HANGGANG KAILAN . . .

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4 JUST VISITING
5 ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS
6 SLACKRES

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78
1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3 MEN IN BLACK
4 KAPALIT
5 JUST VISITING
6 AMELIE

Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270
1 KATAWAN
2 BIG FAT LIAR
3 HIGH CRIMES
4 MEN IN BLACK II
5 ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS
6 RESERVED

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'DOG SOLDIERS'

Funny, silly gore fest

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THIS isn't really a werewolf movie, at least not in the traditional sense. If viewers are expecting to see a werewolf tale in the vein of "The Howling," "Wolfen," "An American Werewolf in London" (or ". . . Paris," its sequel), or the groundbreaking '80s TV series, "Were-wolf", they will be disappointed.

"Dog Soldiers" has none of the characterization, cheesiness, or sensuality that made the aforementioned efforts horror genre favorites.

Instead, this is a man-versus-monster flick that has shades of almost every American action film in recent memory. Writer-director Neil Marshall's film debut is an action-packed and ultraviolent take on survival, a European B-movie that can be disgustingly funny, if you're into this kind of thing.

You've seen this before. Six soldiers are sent on a routine training exercise, unaware of the perils that await them in the Scottish wilderness.

The story, a very typical, run-of-the-mill one, focuses on the platoon of British troops led by Sgt. Wells (Sean Pertwee) as they fight against vicious and intelligent creatures that they believe only exist in legen d.

When Wells is gravely wounded, his tough subordinate soldier Cooper (Kevin McKidd) takes command, and, with the help of ranger-zoologist Megan (Emma Cleasby), the team narrowly escapes becoming dog food. Hiding and eventually getting trapped in a country house with dwindling ammunition and an injured comrade, they do their best to outsmart and outgun their fanged foes, until they find out an unexpected truth about their lupine attackers and their presence in that house.

Decent sign

The dialogue is funny enough with Brit slang, cuss words and uncontrived wit. When the soldiers talk about their fears (castration, penalty shoot-outs, spiders, women, etc.), one wonders if they're reflections of director Marshall's own, because the conversation sounds honest. When Sarge Wells talks about a departed buddy over campfire, his carefully chosen words elicit feelings of dread and respect, a decent sign that the writer has a handle on behavior and interaction.

The busy and oftentimes shaky cinematography keeps viewers interested, if not at the edge of their seats. The monochromatic wolf-perspectives cast an air of mystery that looks oddly beautiful. The camera work is kinetic to the extent that it doesn't linger unnecessarily on clutter. It has to be, because the unoriginal plot needs all the help it can get.

Mostly draped in shadows, the werewolf pack consists of seven-footers, smart and extremely strong ones at that. It's not very clear how they infect ordinary people. It's only vaguely implied that wolf-inflicted injuries (by cursed saliva?) make new monster-men. Familiar lore pinpoints weaknesses to silver or fire, but since this is a trigger-happy action flick, regular bullets can delay them, and at the very least, piss them off.

The movie's extremely gruesome shockers are worthy of coverage by the horror movie mag Fangoria. Nasty, realistic special effects like entrails hanging out and decapitated body parts can make the hardened viewer queasy.

But again, the story's predictability floats to the surface, blunting the shock value of the horrific visuals.

Standard stuff

Ultimately, it's a pale mish-mash of Hollywood monster flicks. The fight sequences have been done before with finesse in "Aliens" and

FUNNY/ A27

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MEGIDDO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOG SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HIGH CRIMES
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN/ SENSUAL FEELING
ODEON	MEGIDDO
ODEON-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT / WE WERE SOLDIER
ROBEN	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO / DEVILS MASK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
REMAR	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
REMAR-2	SUGAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-2	KAPALIT
CINEMA-3	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-7	SELDA
CINEMA-8	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-12	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-14	DOG SOLDIERS
CINEMA-15	MINORITY REPORT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-2	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-5	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-6	MEN IN BLACK 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	[illegible]
CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THIRD WHEEL - P 13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:55, 7:50, 9:45	SORORITY BOYS - R 18 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS - P 13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
MEN IN BLACK 2 - P13 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10	MEGIDDO - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT - P 13 11:40, 2:00, 7:30, 9:50

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P 13
CINEMA 2
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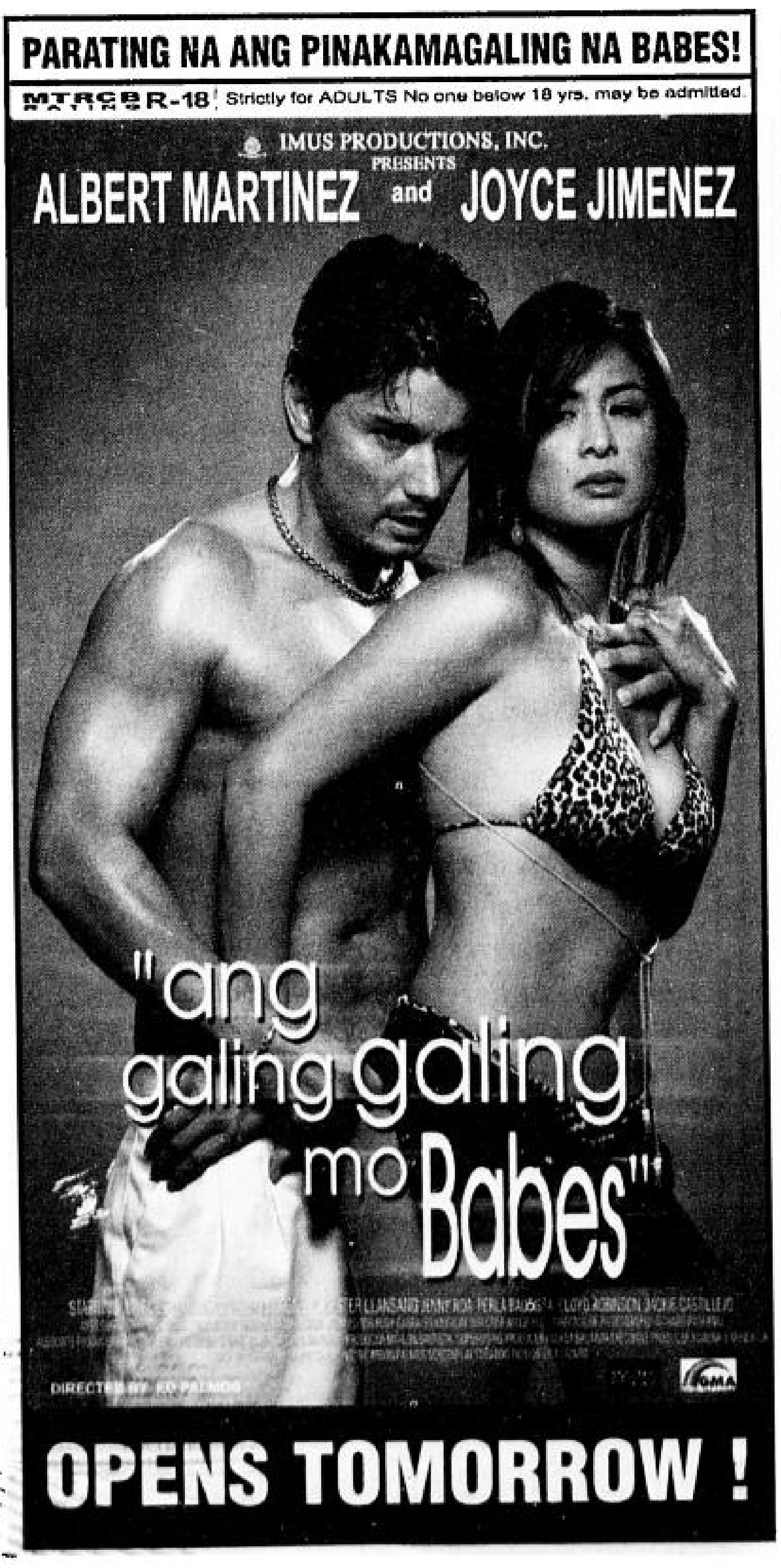
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IMUS PRODUCTIONS, INC.
PRESENTS
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"ang galing galing mo Babes"
DIRECTED BY ED PALMOS
GMA
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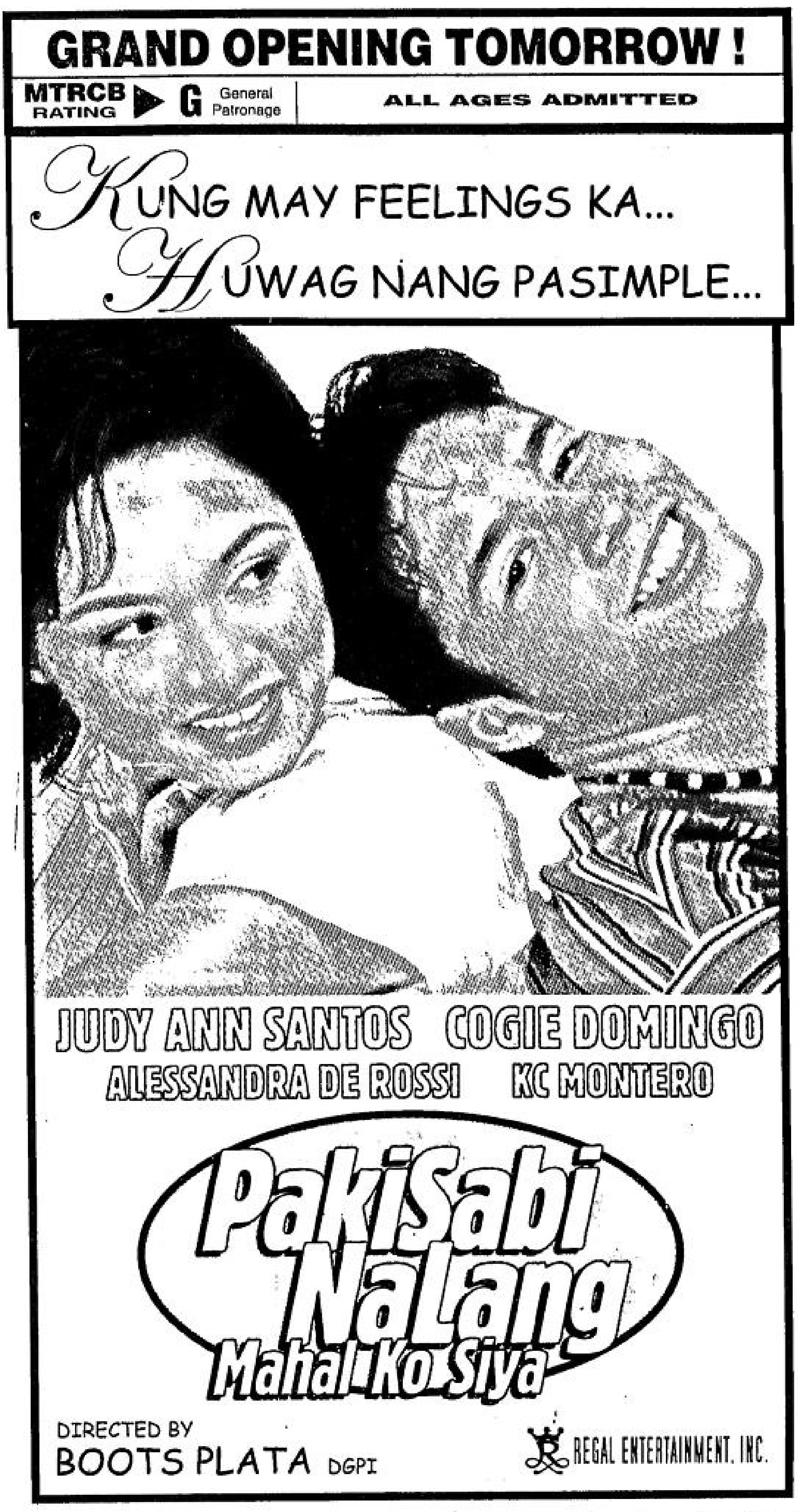
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ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI
KC MONTERO
PakiSabi NaLang Mahal Ko Siya
DIRECTED BY
BOOTS PLATA DGPI
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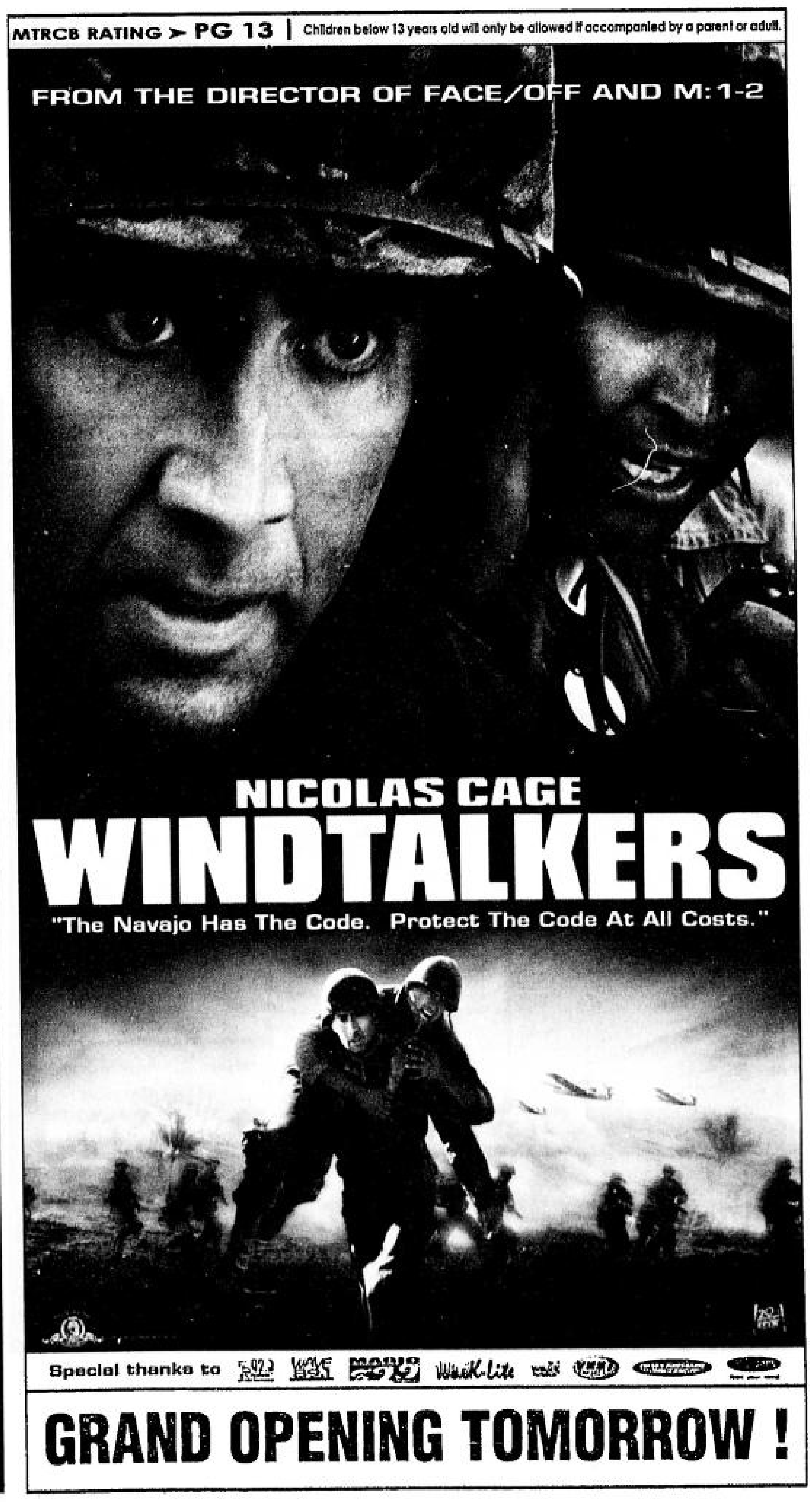
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WINDTALKERS
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Art follows some celebrities' lives in the movies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE REAL-LIFE shootout involving **Sonny Parsons** has dramatically revived the public's interest in the singer-action star. There's something about life imitating the movies, and even going beyond their facile limits, that elicits the avid interest and admiration of Filipinos, who have to contend with danger in their own lives, and are given a psychic boost when a hero foils criminals in real life, and even emerges relatively unscathed.

Despite some attendant controversy over exactly how far Parsons should have gone in defense of his home and family, most people are behind him, and admire him as a true-blue hero. You can bet that some movie producers are thinking up action projects for him to star in, while people's interest in him is high.

This is in extreme contrast to another real-life case involving a movie personality, the **Nida Blanca** murder case, that a producer has expressed interest in filming.

The reaction of Nida's family and fans has been decidedly negative, with possible legal threats of injunction flying in the air, and it looks like the project isn't going to prosper.

The fear was that Nida's story might fall into the hands of an exploitative producer who would mine it for all the sleaze, controversy and shock value it was worth, like say, **Maggie de la Riva**'s rape case.

Well, Nida's honor has been defended in this instance, but that's no assurance that, sometime in the future, other film people won't try to make a movie on her murder case, which the public has been following for many months.

What about **Rico Yan**'s life story—will his family give permission to a reputable movie company to make a movie on him, as long as certain parameters are observed, with the view in mind of motivating young viewers to try to lead productive, public service-oriented lives?

Finally, what about the **Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez** movie that a producer wants to make—isn't this project also pegged on a real-life development, namely the on-again, off-again relationship involving the two stars?

Corollary to this, Joey's ex, **Alma Moreno**, recently unveiled a movie, "Kapalit?," the title of which coyly harked back to her own reported situation, namely her having been "replaced" in Joey's heart?

Art does follow some celebrities' lives, and vice-versa, in the movies!

Feedback

TV buff **Van** called to share her reactions to Channel 2's new daytime talk show, "Morning Girls." Her comments focused on co-host Kris' Aquino. Van observed that Kris' current situation or problems appear to be affecting her work on the show, and suggested that Kris try harder to focus on the show's guests than on herself.

Elvis' hits in 'Lilo & Stitch'

WHAT kind of music do you choose for an animated motion picture that's set in Hawaii and combines such disparate elements as surfing and a mischievous alien character? The makers of the film, "Lilo & Stitch," decided on the late **Elvis Presley**'s hits, an inspired decision that helped make the movie a mammoth hit.

During the course of the film, Elvis is heard singing six of his most popular songs—"Heartbreak Hotel," "Stuck on You," "Blue Hawaii," "Suspicious Minds," "Devil in Disguise" and "Hound Dog." The songs add comedy and commentary to the movie, while helping to define the characters.

On Star Movies

SOME interesting films on the Star Movies channel this August:

Sunday, Aug. 4 at 11 p.m., "Feast of July." In the rich tradition of classic Merchant Ivory productions comes this extraordinary story of love and tragedy. **Embeth Davidtz** stars as Bella Ford, a young woman who sets out on a journey to find the man who abandoned her.

Bella finds shelter in the home of the Wainwright family, whose three sons fight for the affections of their enchanting and mysterious guest.

At 3:30 p.m., "Panic." Alex (**William H. Macy**) is having a midlife crisis. Not only is he unhappy with his marriage, but he wants to get out of the family business, killing people for a fee! Seeking help, he turns to Dr. Josh Parks (**John Ritter**) for therapy.

While in the psychologist's waiting room, he meets a manic but beautiful woman (**Neve Campbell**). Alex now has to contend not only with his feelings for this woman, but also with his concerned wife, his intuitive young son, and his controlling father (**Donald Sutherland**).

Funny, silly gore fest

From page A26

"Jurassic Park," and to a lesser degree in "The Relic" and "Pitch Black." Slithery aliens are replaced with other carnivores, this time with a hirsute variety.

The character of the dog-loving hero Cooper (ah, sweet irony) is pretty standard stuff. He doesn't get a lot of sympathy, mainly because everyone's expecting him to survive unscathed eventually. The modes of death of the prey and when and where the hunters attack don't require much guesswork.

Did I mention you've seen this before?

This may appeal to videogame fanatics who enjoy shooting enemy booty, or to people who haven't seen "Aliens." Fans of "real" werewolf movies also needn't see this, and should just rent the videos of the classics.

"Dog Soldiers" is an unapologetically silly creature feature, a purely testostero-ney release of pent-up rage that can't easily be distinguished from the legion of films that inspired it.

MISALUCHA

Lani caps Hard Rock series

LANI MISALUCHA caps Hard Rock Café's non-stop concert series this month with a repeat of her much talked-about solon show, "Lani Misalucha in Concert."

The Hard Rock Café show is supported by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP), Lipton Iced Tea, and Mossimo.

Entrance is P400, inclusive of two standard drinks.

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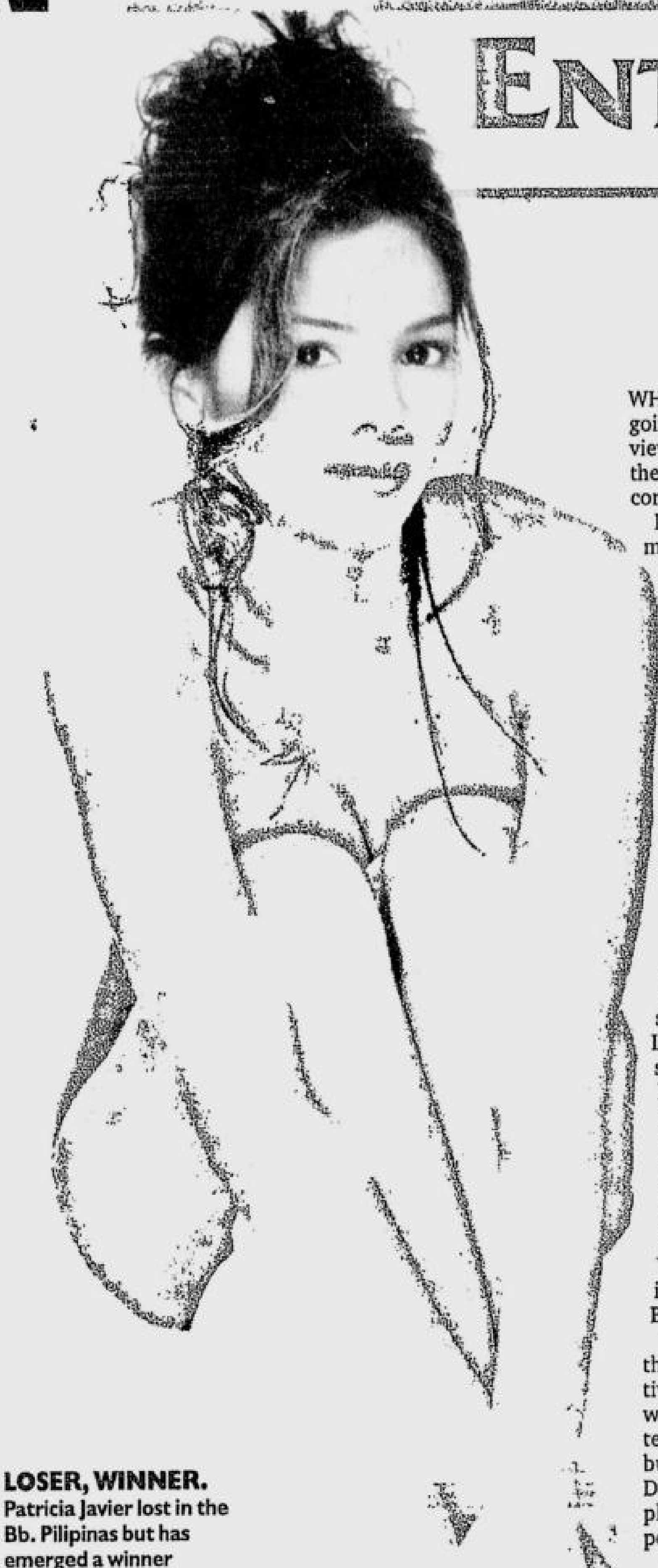
Aar Paar 3:30 pm
Baazi 6:30 pm
Baazi 9:30 pm
July 27 (SAT)
Mr. & Mrs. 55 12:30 pm
Mr. & Mrs. '55 3:30 pm
Pyaasa 6:30 pm
Pyaasa 9:30 pm
July 28 (SUN)
Baazi 12:30 pm
Baazi 3:30 pm
Kaagaz ke Phool 6:30 pm
Kaagaz ke Phool 9:30 pm
July 29 (MON)
Pyaasa 12:30 pm
Pyaasa 3:30 pm
Aar Paar 6:30 pm
Aar Paar 9:30 pm
July 30 (TUE)
[illegible]
July 31 (WED)
[illegible] 12:30 pm
[illegible] 3:30 pm
[illegible] 6:30 pm
[illegible] 9:30 pm
A RETROSPECTIVE OF GURU DUTT

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



LOSER, WINNER. Patricia Javier lost in the Bb. Pilipinas but has emerged a winner several times.

How to keep your man, according to Patricia Javier

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

WHEN I told my guy friends I was going to have a one-on-one interview with **Patricia Javier**, all of them volunteered to be my escort.

Patricia has a certain kind of mystique that other sexy sirens don't have. Even if her centerfold pictorials are so daring and provocative, she's rather meek and reserved when you meet her up close.

The 23-year-old stunner from Bicol, who used to do odd jobs in fast food chains and back-up vocals for some obscure band, is on the brink of international stardom. She is off to Hollywood with her feisty manager, **Jessica Rodriguez**.

Patricia's on her way to making her a dream come true. On July 31 and Aug. 1, she will have a workshop at the LA Music Academy. Aug 2, she's slated for one-on-one voice lessons with jazz luminary **Kevynn Lettau**. Aug 5, she's meeting with one of the bigwigs in Hollywood's talent agency circuit, **William Morris** and his son **John**, for auditions to sing in a premier Las Vegas club. And on Aug. 6, she is scheduled to meet **Brooke Burke** of "Wild on E!"

This is all in preparation for the release of her album, tentatively titled "Patricia's Secrets," which EMI International intends to release in Asia. The album comes with a VCD of "A Day in the Life of Patricia" and photos of Patricia in naughty poses.

While she's in L.A., her movie with **Eddie Garcia** and **Andrew E.** "Uragon"(which means *matindi* in her native Bicolano) will hit local cinemas.

Let's get to know more about the "reluctant" goddess.

Dolly: How were you discovered?

Patricia: I lost in the Binibining Pilipinas but luckily, **Jo-Anne Quintas** spotted me so she and Jessica went backstage to ask if I wanted to join show biz, but it took me months to decide. I'm basically shy. I joined Bb. Pilipinas because my mom requested me to. She always made me join all sorts of beauty contests, from the barangay level to town fiestas, and as a dutiful daughter I just followed her.

She told me that if I won in the Bb. Pilipinas, I could go on my own already with my boyfriend (model and host **Marc Nelson**). So I joined not really because I wanted to win but because I was so in love with Marc. I was so down when I lost but Marc went backstage and told me it was okay, I could still bring him home as my trophy.

Has any man replaced Marc or even come close to him in your heart?

I don't think so. Ours was almost perfect. We had to part because we both wanted to prove that we could make it even when we're not together. But we still keep in touch.

You must have a lot of suitors? Any indecent proposals?

I don't want to offend anyone so I don't give them false hopes. But when they offer me gifts that are very expensive, like a car, I turn them down in a nice way. Up to "flirtext" *lang ako*. I want to be on the safe side.

What type of guys do you go for?

I like the *baduy* types. The ones who would pick flowers from the park to give to me. I don't like the feeling that I'm being bought because I'm not for sale.

What's the sweetest thing a guy ever did for you?

Back to Marc (blushing). We were watching a movie and I was feeling so cold so he took off his socks and made me wear them. He really put them on my feet.

And once we went window-shopping. We were both broke. I pointed out a dress I liked. I knew that the P1,500 in his wallet was his last money. I really cried when he bought the dress for me as a birthday gift with all the money he had left.

What's your secret in keeping a man?

Leave some mystery. Be sweet one day and then detached the next day. If you're not ready to leave him, then don't bother to find out what he does and where he goes when you're not together. If you're ready to say goodbye, then that's when you do research.

If and when I get married, I'll make sure I'll be wife as well as a mistress to my husband. I'd like us to have a His, Hers, Ours bedrooms so we still maintain our privacy. We won't get tired of each other that way.

How about your best-kept beauty secret?

Coconut oil all over my body. I have moles all over my face and my body. *Puwede akong* "connect the dots."

Any vice?

People are surprised to find out that I'm not a party girl. I don't smoke or drink. I'd rather stay home. I would rather buy things for the house than for myself. I'm happy I was able to build a modest home for my family in Antipolo and bought a passenger jeepney so we can have a little business.

Is there anything you wanna change in yourself?

Maybe the way I give it my all once I get attached. I'm like a catsup dispenser. At first I just give a little at a time but once I'm really squeezed, my trust and love just overflows.

Any crushes?

The Zobel brothers and **Brad Pitt**.

What's your album going to be like?

They are grooming me to be a sort of **Coco Lee**, **Kylie Minogue** and **Jennifer Lopez**, but of course I want to develop my own style.

Jessica says: "Had I known she has a good singing voice, I would have built her up as a singer and not as sexy star."

If and when you make it big internationally, will you leave everything behind?

I'll stay where my heart is. Not where my body is wanted. Looks and fame pass. Love, friends and family never go away.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

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OPENING FILM

HEAVEN (Germany)

TYKWER'S LATEST OPUS tells the story of a woman who takes the law into her own hands after police ignore her pleas to arrest the man responsible for her husband's death. She finds herself not only under arrest but also falling in love with an officer.

The film vied for the Golden Berlin and is a winner of the Film Prize in Silver at this year's German Film Awards.

CLOSING FILM

In the Mood for Love (Hong Kong)

THIS IS A GORGEOUS romantic drama set in 1962 Hong Kong. Two neighbors find out that their respective mates are having an affair. This discovery in turn leads them into something deeper than friendship, something that neither could ever have expected.

Official Selection for Palm d'Or and winner of Technical Grand Prize and Best Actor for Leung at the 2000 Cannes International Film Festival.

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OTHER SELECTIONS AND SHOWCASES

DIRECTORS IN FOCUS
Francois Ozon & Mike de Leon

Belgium & Latin American films

Tributes to John Cassovetes, a pioneer of American cinema verite and Takeshi Kitano

WORKSHOPS & TALKS
Talk with the French filmmaker Olivier Assayas and the Direct Action Cinema workshop with Sundance Grand Prize and Cannes Camera d'Or winner Rob Nilsson.

Cinematography workshop by Pierre-William Glenn, a french cinematographer who has worked with French directors, Costa Gavras, Claude LeLouche and Bertrand Tavernier.

In accordance with the Cinemanila-ASEF Film Development Plan, a Roundtable Conference will be held to support and respond to the creative productions of local indie filmmakers. Conference is set from August 12-14.

FILMS IN COMPETITION

Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner (Canada)
Away from Home (Turkey)
Bagong Buwan (Philippines)
Calmness (India)
Chico (Hungary/Gremany/Croatia/Chile)
Dog Days (Austria)
Harmful Insect (Japan)
Hollywood Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
Hubog (Philippines)
I Not Stupid (Singapore)
Manito (USA)
Seafood (China)
Taxi Para Tres (Chile)
Una Casa con Vista al Mar (Venezuela)
What Time Is It There (Taiwan)
Whispering Sands (Indonesia)
Y Tu Mama Tambien (Mexico)

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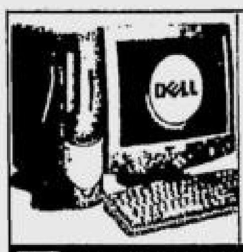

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Market upheaval threatens Asean

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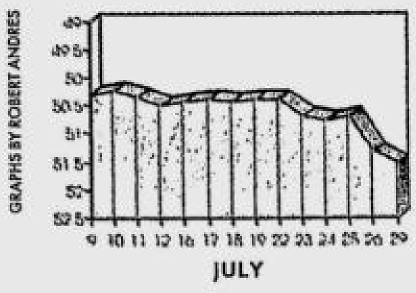
PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.53 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 29, 2002

¥ 119.11 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 29, 2002

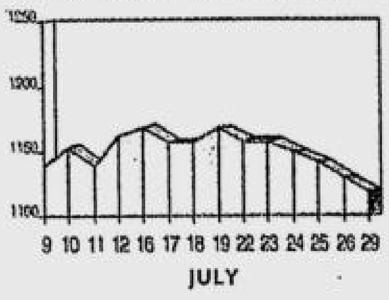
GOLD: $302.60/303.10

per ounce Hong Kong,
July 29, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS ended more than one percent lower yesterday, breaching a critical support level on the main index, as investors offloaded large caps spooked by fears of an upward spike in the country's full-year budget deficit target.

A recommendation by an inter-agency government body to cut the country's growth targets next year also played on sentiment.

The main index closed down 1.01 percent at 1,118.03 after briefly touching its lowest level for the year of 1,111.44 points.

Turnover remained thin at P257.59 million against P308.9 million on Friday.

Reuters

Need to regain competitiveness stressed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei—Despite the threat of terrorism, the greatest menace to hundreds of millions of Southeast Asians is economic upheaval, Brunei's ruler said yesterday.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, hosting a meeting of foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian nations, said in a speech that stock markets in recent weeks underscored the economic volatility of the modern world.

"For the hundreds of millions of people we represent, the most pressing item of business on our regional agenda is economic progress," the sultan said. "It is the biggest challenge for our ministers."

One of the world's wealthiest men, the sultan is absolute ruler of this tiny oil-rich Borneo state of 300,000 people, an island of affluence in a region of 500 million people who range from well-off to some of the world's poorest.

The sultan spoke at the opening of a meeting of Asean foreign ministers, which will be followed Wednesday by a gathering that will include 13 more nations with security interests in the Asia-Pacific.

The centerpiece of the wider Asean Regional Forum will be the signing of an anti-terrorism pact with the United States. But for many ordinary people, the sultan said, economic uncertainty is a bigger worry than terror.

Asean was ravaged by a 1997 financial crisis that threw much of the region into recession. Though many economies have bounced back, neither the boom mentality nor the rapid economic growth that preceded the crash have returned.

"We feel we are making real progress in recovering from the financial crisis in 1997," the sultan said.

"Yet we still face enormous difficulties. The news from many stock markets this month is clear evidence of this," he said.

"Just as one challenge is met, another seems to emerge."

In the United States, corporate accounting scandals have shaken investors' confidence and upset markets. That volatility has many economists fretting over the American economic recovery, which is a key engine to global growth.

MARKET/ B2

Budget deficit jitters continue to drag peso down

By Clarissa S. Batino

JITTERS over the budget deficit and the weakening of other currencies in the region continued to drag down the peso yesterday to hit a day low of 51.93 to $1 in the morning before closing at 51.53, or 23 centavos lower than last Friday's close.

Yesterday's peso-dollar exchange rate was the lowest since Jan. 9 when the local currency closed at 51.56 to $1.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it had nothing to do with the peso's recovery yesterday afternoon and traders agreed that the central bank did not intervene by selling dollars.

Exporters, said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., felt the level was attractive enough for them to convert their dollars into pesos and this helped the local currency to regain some of the value it lost during the morning trading.

At the same time, investors were no longer willing to buy dollars at such a high rate and this quelled the demand for the greenback.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso was "overreacting" to the decline of other currencies in the region. He admitted that investors were also uneasy about the fiscal slippage.

As of end-June, the government's budget deficit widened to P119.7 billion or already 91 percent of the P130-billion target for the year.

"I don't think there were speculations. I think the peso was essentially overreacting to the

BUDGET/ B3

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Petron net up 84% in first half

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PETRON Corp, the country's largest oil refiner, said yesterday that its net income in the first half of the year jumped 84 percent to P1.24 billion compared with the same period last year.

Petron president and chief executive Motassim al-Ma'Ashouq told stockholders during their annual meeting that the increase was due to the "improvement in gross margin and sustained cost discipline."

He said: "Petron's return to profitability has been driven by the effective management of our cost base and higher (usage) of our assets. This has been coupled with our focus to achieve a target return capital."

He added that the oil refiner's year-to-date gross margins—the difference between revenues and the cost of products sold—went up from 9.2 percent to 10.5 percent.

He said this meant an improvement from a gross margin of P152 to P187 a barrel, which was aided by a softening of world crude prices.

Al-Ma-'ashouq noted that average Dubai crude went down from $26 a barrel in 2000 to less than $23 last year and about $22 in the first half of 2002.

He also said Petron would invest more than P3 billion to upgrade its refinery to produce sulfur diesel to comply with the country's clean air laws and maintain its market leadership.

Analysts had expected the oil firm to post a net income of P1.25 billion in the period.

Multex Global Estimates sees the firm's full-year 2002 net income at P1.9 billion, or 20 centavos per share.

The firm's sales volume increased to 23.52 million barrels in the first six months of the year compared with last year's 23.43 million barrels.

Its gross margin also improved, climbing to 10.5 percent in the period from 9.2 percent in the same six-month period last year.

"We have realized significant benefits from our relentless pursuit of value throughout our supply chain," Petron president and chief executive Motassim al-Ma'Ashouq said in a statement.

"We will also continue to concentrate on the high growth segment in the fuel market and profitable non-fuel businesses that have natural links to our core business," he added.

The company plans to invest in a refinery upgrade to produce 0.05 percent sulfur diesel in 2004.

The firm has budgeted P1.5 billion for investments and said it would spend 70 percent of it on service station projects.

The rest will be spent on improving operations.

Petron is partly owned by Saudi Aramco and imports all its crude requirements. *With a report from Reuters*

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4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	110,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	190,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	450,000	400,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	190,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	330,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
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16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
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18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	260,000
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,750,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"		100,000
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	330,000
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	210,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,600,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	250,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	850,000	800,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND		750,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	150,000
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	260,000
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		6,800,000

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COUNTRY SHARES
As of July 29, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,650,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	725,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	85,000/105,000 *
CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	500,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	165,000	180,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	-	350,000/450,000*/600,000 **
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000 *	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	85,000/150,000*/230,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000 **	230,000/260,000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000/260,000 *	270,000/280,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,750,000	2,850,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	650,000/700,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000	115,000/125,000 *
MIMOSA IND./C2**/C***	120,000/150,000**/275,000 ***	155,000/300,000 **
MT MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/625,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	100,000	115,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	220,000
RIVIERA A/C**	180,000/300,000 **	195,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	380,000	450,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	90,000/150,000*/180,000 **
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	110,000/250,000*/350,000 **
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	1,800,000
SUBIC BAY INDICORP.*	290,000 *	200,000/300,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	425,000/800,000 *	850,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	780,000	800,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	240,000	-

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New loans have cut PLDT risks, says ABN Amro

By Abigail L. Ho

NEWLY secured loans should provide equity holders of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. security from debt refinancing risk as most of the company's short-term maturities have already been covered, according to investment bank ABN Amro.

"The company has now mostly covered its maturing short-term obligations, which should not only ease investor risk but could also potentially result in an improved rating outlook for the company," ABN Amro said in a report released yesterday.

It added that a loan of about 9.76 billion yen ($81.93 million) from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation should dispel uncertainties about the status of PLDT's credit negotiations.

"In past weeks, members of the media and some investors have expressed concern that PLDT's management has been too preoccupied with the continuing dispute for First Pacific (Co. Ltd.)'s controlling stake in the Philippine telco, pushing previous refinancing efforts into the background," ABN Amro said.

"Management has maintained all along that progress on the refinancing front has been continuing and this most recent deal is evidence of this," it added.

Last week, PLDT secured a $130-million multi-currency term loan facility that it plans to use to pay off around half of its principal loans maturing next year.

This refinancing is a key component of the company's comprehensive liability management program that aims to address its more than $1.3 billion in maturing obligations from this year to 2004.

Under its liability management initiative, PLDT will term out around half of its maturing obligations between 2002 and 2004, as well as reduce its overall indebtedness by improving operational efficiencies and strengthening internal cash generation.

The multi-currency facility will help settle a 19-billion-yen syndicated term loan and a $103-million debt both maturing in 2003.

At the heels of this loan facility, PLDT announced the approval of the 9.76-billion-yen loan under JBIC's overseas investment loan program made available to companies with Japanese investors.

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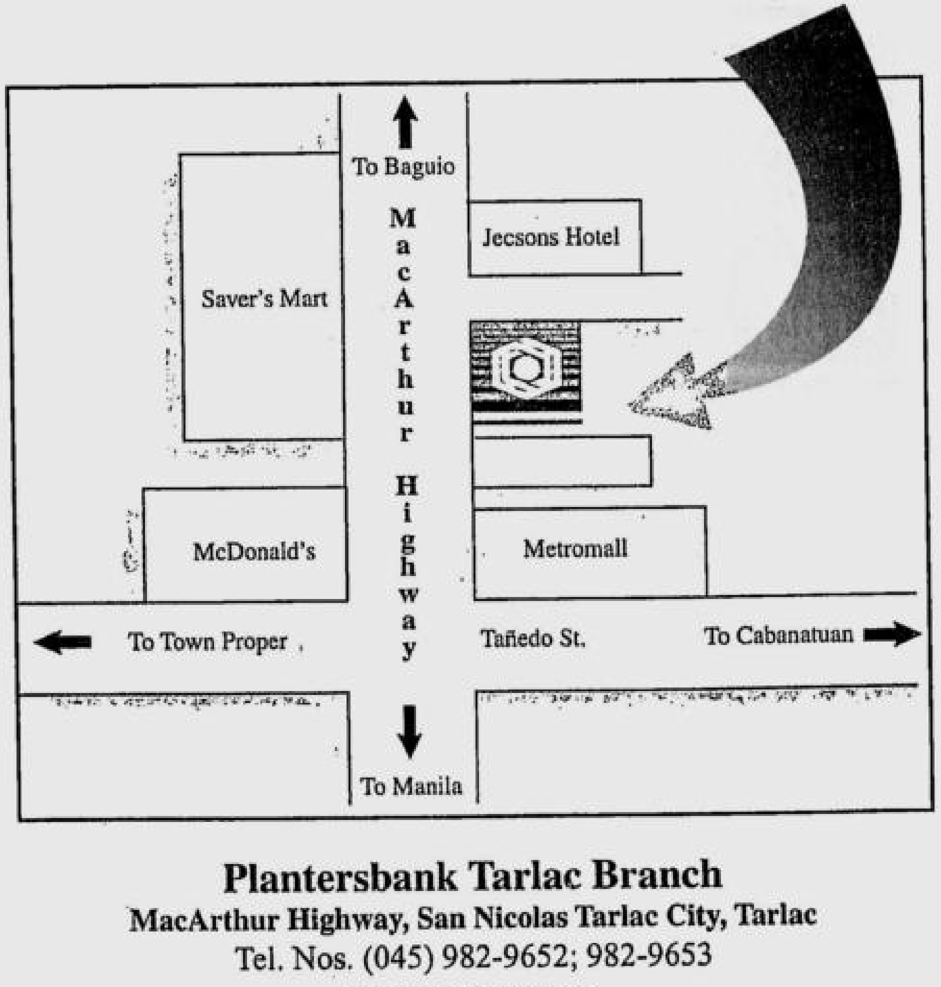

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Market

From page B1

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com agreed that the prevailing weakness could present opportunities for investors to cherry-pick on some stocks, especially those that were left behind in the recent rally.

Among the losers last week were DMCI Holdings, Digital Telecommunications (Phils) Inc., ABS CBN Broadcasting Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, PLDT, Ayala Land Inc., Ionics Corp., JG Summit Holdings, Globe Telecom, Ayala Corp., La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

"Start revisiting good entry windows in fundamentally sound issues that have been cheapened by the wave of foreign selling. It might be timely to consider the reasons why market barometers declined significantly at present levels, " it said.

The immediate support of the Phisix is at 1,250, secondary at 1,200 while the resistance is at 1,300-1,330, it said.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said global and domestic economic uncertainties could continue to temper investor appetite on local stocks.

"We are now in a period when there will be a vacuum in terms of leads. Most market players will be adopting a wait-and-see attitude as share prices drift. We test and retest important support levels and then be in position for a nice year-end rally," Vistan said.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, July 29, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.25	16.75	16	16.75	248,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	48	46.5	46.5	1,375,500
China Banking Corp.	615	615	600	605	6,570
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	27	27	95,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	33.5	34	267,900
Philippine National Bank	32	32	31.5	31.5	8,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1265	1265	1265	1265	3,110
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	920	915	920	1,600
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.25	22.25	22	22	11,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	910,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	520	530	510	515	1,430
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.027	21,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.028	0.026	0.026	9,700,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	305	305	300	302.5	143,920
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	63,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	1,500
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	27	25.5	26.5	345,900
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.74	1,573,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.4	6,298,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.5	3.1	3.3	177,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	58,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.5	12	12	639,000
RFM Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.83	0.83	490,000
Swift Food Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46	45.5	46	52,800
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	52.5	51.5	52.5	247,600
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	561,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	292,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	170,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	8,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	720,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	110,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	430,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	1,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	2,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.25	13.25	2,100,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	600,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	92,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.67	1,200,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	1,920,000
Music Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.15	150,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	70,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	254,500
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	20,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	3,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	4,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	3,400
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	3,224,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.08	2.08	484,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	866,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	1,333,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	500,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	4,400,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	8,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	60,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,017,780	90,760,100.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	127,435,550	137,444,770.00
PRO	7,307,000	29,449,900.00
Mining	6,700,000	614,500.00
OIL	73,500,000	214,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	216,960,330	258,483,270.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	447.02	DOWN 6.86
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,528.23	DOWN 18.65
PRO	523.78	UP 3.81
Mining	1,160.45	DOWN 4.73
OIL	1.36	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	650.09	UP 2.00
Composite	1,118.03	DOWN 11.39

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 31; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 78; NO. OF TRADES: 1,402

CURRENCIES

July 29, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.012556	1.000000	50.9860
Japan	Yen	0.008520	0.008414	0.4290
United Kingdom	Pound	1.585257	1.565600	79.8237
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129827	0.128217	6.5373
Switzerland	Franc	0.691211	0.682640	34.8051
Canada	Dollar	0.637791	0.629882	32.1152
Singapore	Dollar	0.574663	0.567537	28.9364
Australia	Dollar	0.543217	0.536481	27.3530
Bahrain	Dinar	2.685967	2.652661	135.2486
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270015	0.266667	13.5963
Brunei	Dollar	0.579829	0.572639	29.1966
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000109	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024109	0.023810	1.2140
UAE	Dirham	0.275698	0.272279	13.8824
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000851	0.0434
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987600	50.3538
Argentina	Real	0.278941	0.275482	14.0457
Brazil	Real	0.335728	0.331565	16.9052
Denmark	Kroner	0.134573	0.132904	6.7762
India	Rupee	0.020830	0.020572	1.0489
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266498	0.263193	13.4192
Mexico	New Peso	0.104237	0.102944	5.2487
New Zealand	Dollar	0.468103	0.462299	23.5708
Norway	Kroner	0.131786	0.130152	6.6359
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016876	0.016667	0.8498
South Africa	Rand	0.098786	0.097561	4.9742
Sweden	Kroner	0.107446	0.010611	0.5410
Syria	Pound	0.019699	0.019455	0.9919
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030279	0.029904	1.5247
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000768	0.000758	0.0386

PSE chief appeals for unity

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange chair Vivian Yuchengco is calling for unity in the local bourse amid a row over a trading hour survey that has erupted between the PSE president and the head of the floor trading and arbitration committee (FTAC).

In a letter dated July 25, Yuchengco accepted, although "with great sadness and disappointment," the irrevocable resignation of PSE director Eddie Gobing as head of the FTAC.

Gobing and PSE president Ernest Leung were at odds over the inclusion of "optional and/or offsite afternoon trading" in a new survey instead of simply giving brokers a choice between a return to half-day trading or a 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. trading after the morning session.

FTAC earlier conducted its own survey containing these two choices, but the PSE management later released a new survey calling on brokers to disregard the FTAC survey. The management survey expanded the choices to include "optional and/or offsite afternoon trading."

Doris C. Dumlao

Gov't keeps deficit target, considers it a 'challenge'

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is keeping its budget deficit target this year at P130 billion, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

"We can still meet the P130-billion target. It's going to be challenging, but we will do our best," Camacho said after a meeting with the country's economic management team that included Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas.

Prior to this meeting, it was reported that weak revenue collection and rising government expenditures might force the Macapagal administration to raise its budget deficit target this year from P130 billion to at least P140 billion.

"There is a big chance that the target would be revised to a range of P140 to P145 billion. Although the final number could be around P138 billion," a government source said in an interview.

Another source said the Cabinet might even allow the budget deficit to reach as high as P145 billion, the same target as last year although the actual fiscal gap in 2001 overshot the target to end at P147 billion.

The Cabinet is rushing to finalize the deficit target this year, as it will determine the revenue and expenditure targets for 2003.

The government earlier pinned its hopes on achieving a P130-billion budget deficit this year but a government source said the target now seemed "impossible" to achieve due to falling revenue collections, particularly from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

The technical working group of the Development Budget Coordinating Committee estimates that the fiscal gap target could be exceeded by between P28 billion and P33 billion, pushing the budget deficit to between P158 billion and P163 billion.

The group based its estimates on the assumption that revenue collection would yield only P590 billion to P596 billion, far below the collection target of P624 billion. Expenditures, on the other hand, would be kept at P754 billion.

Perks for safe energy projects sought

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GLOBAL environment lobby group Greenpeace has urged the Board of Investments to take a stronger role in shaping the future of energy development projects here by giving fiscal perks to energy projects using renewable energy such as solar, wind and biomass.

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada said, "the BOI could be energy heroes, instead they are energy zeroes." Lozada led a group of Greenpeace activists yesterday in holding a protest outside the BOI's Makati office.

"The BOI is encouraging the wrong kind of energy like dirty fossil power stations that damage the climate when it could be supporting, clean, renewable energy. The BOI has a responsibility to future generations of Filipinos to ensure that energy investments made today are not going to damage the climate tomorrow," Lozada said.

Lozada said coal was an expensive power source and releases greenhouse gases that damage the environment compared with wind, solar and biomass which are virtually free energy sources and more benign to the environment.

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DOE set to issue order forcing Shell, Caltex to pursue IPO

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday that his department was drafting an order that would force multinational petroleum distribution firms Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex (Philippines) Inc. to offer their shares to the public.

Perez said the draft order would spell out the grounds and penalties to be imposed on Shell and Caltex, if they "refuse to go public within a certain date."

Perez reiterated his call for the two oil refiners to list at least 10 percent of their shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange after attending Petron Corp.'s annual stockholders' meeting yesterday.

The official sits as a non-executive director of Petron, and representative of state-run Philippine National Oil Co., which holds a 40-percent stake in the country's biggest petroleum refiner.

"We have given these two oil companies enough time to go public, but (aside from) submitting quarterly reports on market evaluation, they have not done anything or even shown strong resolve to offer their shares," Perez said.

He said the energy department was serious in its plan to impose penalties similar to those imposed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on banks that have not undertaken an initial public offering.

He noted that PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco herself has appealed to the DOE to crack the whip on companies that have failed to list on the local bourse.

The Downstream Oil Deregulation Act of 1998 gave Shell and Caltex until February of 2001 to list their shares. The listing did not push through, however, after the Department of Justice issued an opinion saying the deadline was "directory and not executory."

Instead, the DOJ required the oil firms to submit quarterly reports on their financial status and that of the market. Perez said the DOE order would set a new deadline for the IPO.

Shell and Caltex said they had not met the law's requirement on public listing because of the depressed market and the high oil prices in 2000 and 2001 that adversely affected their operations.

Perez said he believed that the situation had fairly improved and that the listing would be timely this year.

Budget . . .

From page B1

(movement of the) regional currencies and also to the deficit," said Buenaventura who was attending a gathering in Kuala Lumpur.

The central bank pointed out that the decline of the other regional currencies against the dollar was bigger compared with that of the peso which slid by only 0.4 percent last Friday.

The Japanese yen shed 1.6 percent while the Thai baht closed 1.4 percent lower.

The Indonesian rupiah dropped by 1.1 percent, the Korean won by 0.8 percent, the Taiwanese dollar by 0.6 percent, the Singapore dollar by 0.38 percent, and the Australian dollar by 0.15 percent.

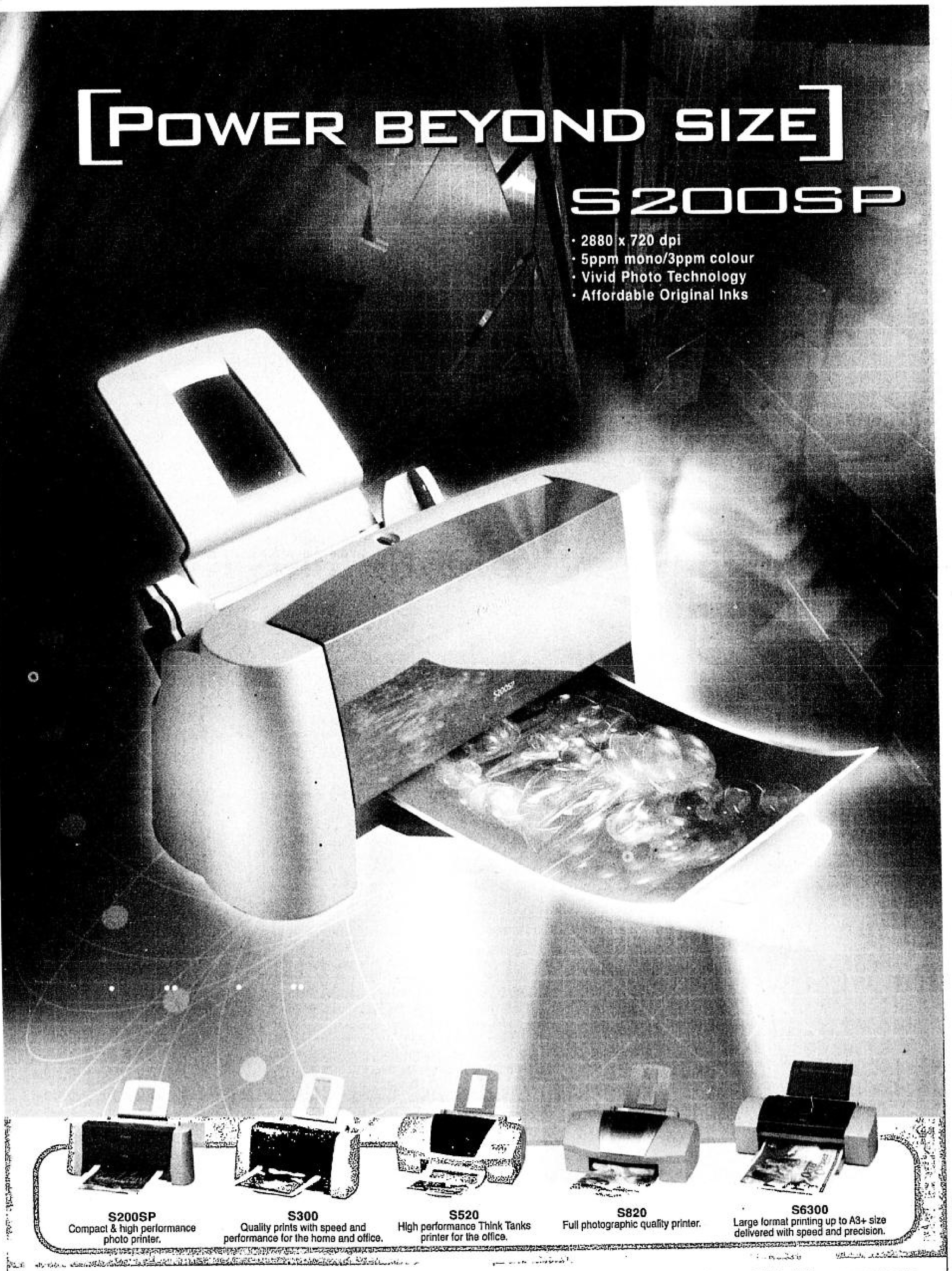
A trader attributed the decline of the regional currencies to the pullout of foreign investors from Asian markets, partly due to fears that the corporate scandals in the United States would spill over Asian markets.

Trade volume amounted to only $123 million yesterday as against Friday's $219 million.

Buenaventura said market players were a bit confused over where to place their money. "Once they realize that the Philippines still has much to offer given its low interest rates and favorable inflation, the local currency will become less volatile," he added.

Buenaventura said he was confident the peso would stabilize in the coming weeks given the country's healthy dollar reserves and the rising remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

He said the central bank was confident of meeting its goal to keep the country's gross international reserves at $14.8 billion this year. The GIR, buoyed by huge government borrowings, stood at $16.88 billion as of June.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REALESTATE

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Gov't ensures safety of building products

By Tessa R. Salazar

STANDARDS
DTI

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A PRECRIME department in the movie "Minority Report" assures city residents zero murder rates. The department does it by stopping crimes before they happen. But the law enforcers don't guess. Thanks to precognitives who supply them with the necessary visual information of the future, they have the basis and materials to do research, proper investigation and analysis to be able to pinpoint the exact location and time of the murder.

Sounds too good to be true, right? Well, believe it or not, there's such a job in the construction and real estate sector that, more or less, anticipates and prevents disasters from happening.

This one, however, doesn't use "precogs." Developing standards, instead, is the basis for screening and analyzing construction materials that determine the quality and safety of the construction, or preventing construction damages.

Developing standards

The job of the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards is to develop standards geared for all sorts of products through an elaborate process involving technical committees of scientists, engineers, technicians and consumer organizations.

There are 1,760 standards in the country. Malaysia has 3,000 standards and is aiming for 10,000 by 2010. Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr., of the consumer welfare and trade regulation, explained that 10,000 standards is the benchmark for a country to be considered developed. The DTI is now starting a formulation of a Philippine strategy for product standards.

Consumer protection

Construction materials free of asbestos, for instance, is the kind of technology that the BPS wants to promote. Its duty is to protect consumers from products that contain chemicals that threaten health and safety.

Cristobal said the DTI decided to form a group to study the policy options available for the government to address the problem of asbestos. This group is led by the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines and the Bureau of Product Standards. James Hardie Philippines was cited, during the July 23 launch of asbestos-free external wall cladding HardiPlank, for developing and promoting asbestos-free fiber cement in the country.

"Just by being yourselves, you will force your competitors, and eventually other industries, to raise the standards of the products," Cristobal told James Hardie Philippines executives.

Australia-based James Hardie, the maker of Hardiflex Lite 3.5 ceiling application launched a year ago, entered the Philippine market in 1996 with the strategy of offering HardiFlex fiber cement boards to replace wooden materials. To lower the delivery cost, the company put up a manufacturing facility in Cabuyao, Laguna in 1998.

James Balass, president of James Hardie Philippines Inc., stressed that the company uses cement, sand and wood fiber, which comes only from replenishable forests. He said the HardiPlank is going to be produced in the Laguna plant.

The company scored another point during its July 23 event when its product was cited for its affordability by the government. In the urban poor community of Payatas where socialized housing units were being constructed by the government and nongovernment organizations, James Hardie products were being used for the walls.

Fire-, termite-proof wall cladding saves 25% on cost

A FIRE-PROOF, termite-proof durable alternative to wood that still provides a texture of timber and the appearance of luxury is being used in upscale American-theme structures in Tagaytay Highlands Sports Complex and Camp John Hay homes in Baguio City.

But that's just half of the story. Architect Alexander R. Balce told a crowd of developers and architects during the recent launch of HardiPlank that this external wall cladding could increase the speed of wall installation by about 25 percent and reduce the cost of construction by around the same percentage.

He came to know of the product when the supply of wooden building materials became scarce, causing prices to go up. At that time HardiPlank was not yet locally produced since the James Hardie Philippines plant in Cabuyao, Laguna, was not yet established. HardiPlank then was more expensive than wood. When the government implemented the logging ban, Balce said the price of wood increased and now was comparable to the HardiPlank.

His Tagaytay project in 1994 was composed of the eaves of a clubhouse. It was a structure built with maple-like light-toned wood called "igim," which had a tendency to darken in Tagaytay's cold, moist climate.

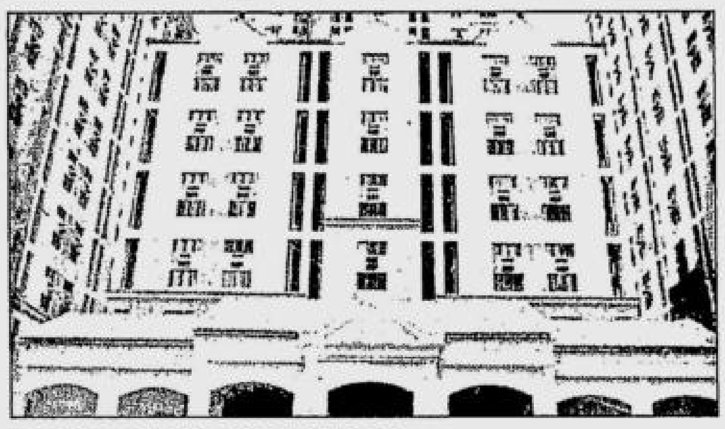
"The client decided to paint over what looked like rotting wood. The poor performance of the existing material resulted in repeated costly repairs," described Balce. He added that the frequent paint jobs became tedious, and the paint kept peeling off. Balce claimed that fiber cement HardiPlank became his savior as it proved it did not hold moisture and the paint applied to it neither peeled nor chipped. HardiPlank was even found to be free from asbestos.

Balce, who used the material for his Leyte Housing Village project for US company California Energy International in Ormoc, described HardiPlank as traditional American-theme design, and that he found in this a better potential of construction than what was offered by traditional concrete hollow blocks.

HardiPlank, he said, helped architects stay accurate in their measurements and cost projections, keeping them on close track in accordance with clients' budget.

"With this, you no longer have to build walls up to the window sill level and wait one day before building the remainder of the structure, only to put up with imperfect walls that later leave traces of cracks, stains and chipping plaster," he said.

Tessa R. Salazar



NOW AT FINISHING STAGE

The nine-cluster Greenhills Garden Square residential development in Quezon City of housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. is 82 percent complete. Interior finishing works are being fast-tracked for Clusters 1 to 4 while Clusters 5 to 9 are undergoing painting, loft and stairs installation and window mounting. Empire East has also substantially completed the deluxe, resort-style amenity area.

Glittering kickoff rites for Westgate Center

DINING fun at Westgate

THE COUNTRY'S top retailers gathered for an exciting preview of the upcoming Westgate Center, an all-new concept by Filinvest Alabang Inc., the developer of the highly successful Festival Supermall.

The Westgate Center, which promises to be a lifestyle landmark south of Manila, was recently launched at a glittering evening at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in a setting that recreated the relaxed lounge atmosphere, café experience and street party verve expected to animate Manila's next big thing.

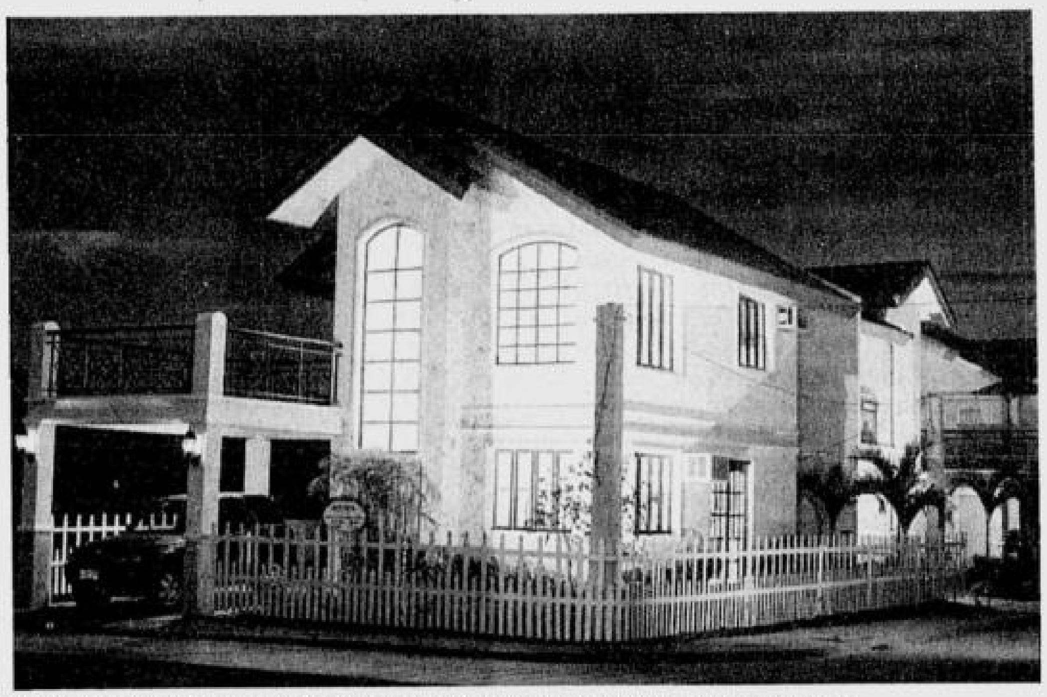
Hosting the festivities were Andrew and Mercedes Gotianun, daughter Josephine Yap, alongside the energetic Westgate team headed by project manager Anton Hechanova and marketing manager Rose A. Nuqui. The event was hosted by TV personality Daphne Oseña-Paez.

Seen in the crowd were enthusiastic mall tenants who have already signed on—Bert and Carol Nievera of Country Waffles, William Go of PriceMart (operator of S&R that will anchor Westgate), Guy Owens of Fitness First, Martin Jose of Brothers Burger, Fred Milner of Bargo, Dr. Rolando dela Merced of Carguard, Frederico de Guzman of Audi Auto and Erwin Espeleta of Yokohama Tyre Gallery. Also present were Frederick Siy of Kenny Rogers, Jennifer Tingson of Stores Specialists, Nicholas de Lange of Designs Ligna, Gilbert Gillette Garcia of Congo Grille, Kate Lagman of Jewelmer, Dr. Chiquito Summer of Cable Car, Cyril Lucban of Federal Hardware, Henry Cheung of Good Earth Restaurant, Mariano Chua of Jack's Loft, Jojo Marcelo of Fazoli, Juan Jose Lazaro of KFC, Pam Banal of McDonalds, Dunstan Gonzales of Nissan Alabang, Dr. Roberto Enrile of Steaktown, Romaign Asprec of Strumm's and Ziebart's Louie Loanzon.

Anton Hechanova, business development manager for the latest leisure experience waiting to happen, explained that the Westgate Center intends to deliver food (both quick service and fine dining), music and all the joys of shopping intertwined into a total leisure environment that will be "a feast for all the senses."

Top Australian design groups Davenport & Campbell and B&N Retail will provide a unique setting, combining sleek architecture with the soothing surroundings of nature and artworks.

Bloomfields model units now open



VENUS, a 2-bedroom single-detached house that has a total area of 85 sq. m.

AFFORDABLE homes in desirable locations are a dime a dozen, especially during these thriving times when buyers have become discriminating in their choices.

Not so in the case of Bloomfields, a subdivision development of Robinsons Land Corp. located in Quezon City. The first phase of the project was sold out during the preselling mode. This prompted Robinsons Land to open the second phase, which is also well accepted by the market.

'Easy own' scheme

The company believes that Bloomfields stood out among the other developments in nearby areas because of its "easy own" scheme. Priced from P2.9 to P4 million, the scheme allows buyers to pay 30 percent of the total price within 24 months, interest-free. The buyer can then apply for a bank loan for 70 percent of the balance. Proximity to Robinsons Place Novaliches and Big R supercenter is also an ultimate advantage of the project.

Interested buyers can now visit the site in Novaliches where model houses—Venus, Dianne, Serena and Martina—have been set up to assist them in their selection process. Each model unit has its own personality and character, leaving a mark on buyers as to how beautiful their homes would be. There is also enough space for a garden.

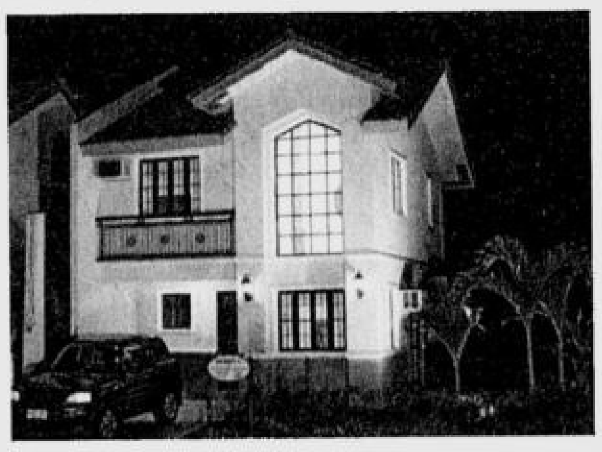
Venus

Take the case of Venus, 2-bedroom single-detached house, which has a total floor area of 85 square meters. Lito C. Bautista of OCB + Associates Architects was tasked to design this model house unit. He opted to create space by painting the walls with white as natural lighting flows in from the high ceiling.

Natural colors and earth tones are suggested to compliment the minimalist approach. Glass blocks, ledges and rich wood finishes complement the overall design. A wall and a cheerful ledge upon entry strike the foyer leading to the main areas of the house. The combination of glass block and rich wood finishes of the bar extremely separates the living area from the dining area. A viewing verandah on the second floor has been integrated into the design, while below it is a one-car garage. There are 2-bedroom setups on the second floor: a tastefully designed master's bedroom in understated tones and a second bedroom, which can be used by the children.

Dianne

The Dianne model house, on the other hand, is a 3-bedroom single-detached house, with a total floor area of 112 square meters. The talented and enterprising Catherine Carunungan of Carunungan & Partners Co. handled the design and execution of the Dianne model house. She and her team had a young family in mind when they came up with a concept for this model house. A spacious living room with high ceiling has been integrated into the design. A bedroom is located at the ground floor, which can easily be converted into a family TV room and double up as a guest room.



SERENA house model

THE LIVING and dining rooms as well as the kitchen.

Homemakers will fall in love with the kitchen design. The U-shaped kitchen provides a lot of counter and cabinet spaces for a more functional design. This is where cooking, food preparation and other activities can take place. It is also accessible to the dining area which is large enough to accommodate a 6-seater table. A mixture of teakwood, glass tops and natural fabrics all contribute to the warm and pleasant atmosphere of the ground floor area.

The master's bedroom, with its own toilet and bath at the second floor, is a spacious suite with lots of light and ventilation. Choices of cheerful colors have been applied without necessarily compromising the country theme. The children's bedroom also carries a bright disposition, with natural colors blending perfectly well with colorful hues. A balcony provides an additional space for those Sunday afternoon barbecues.

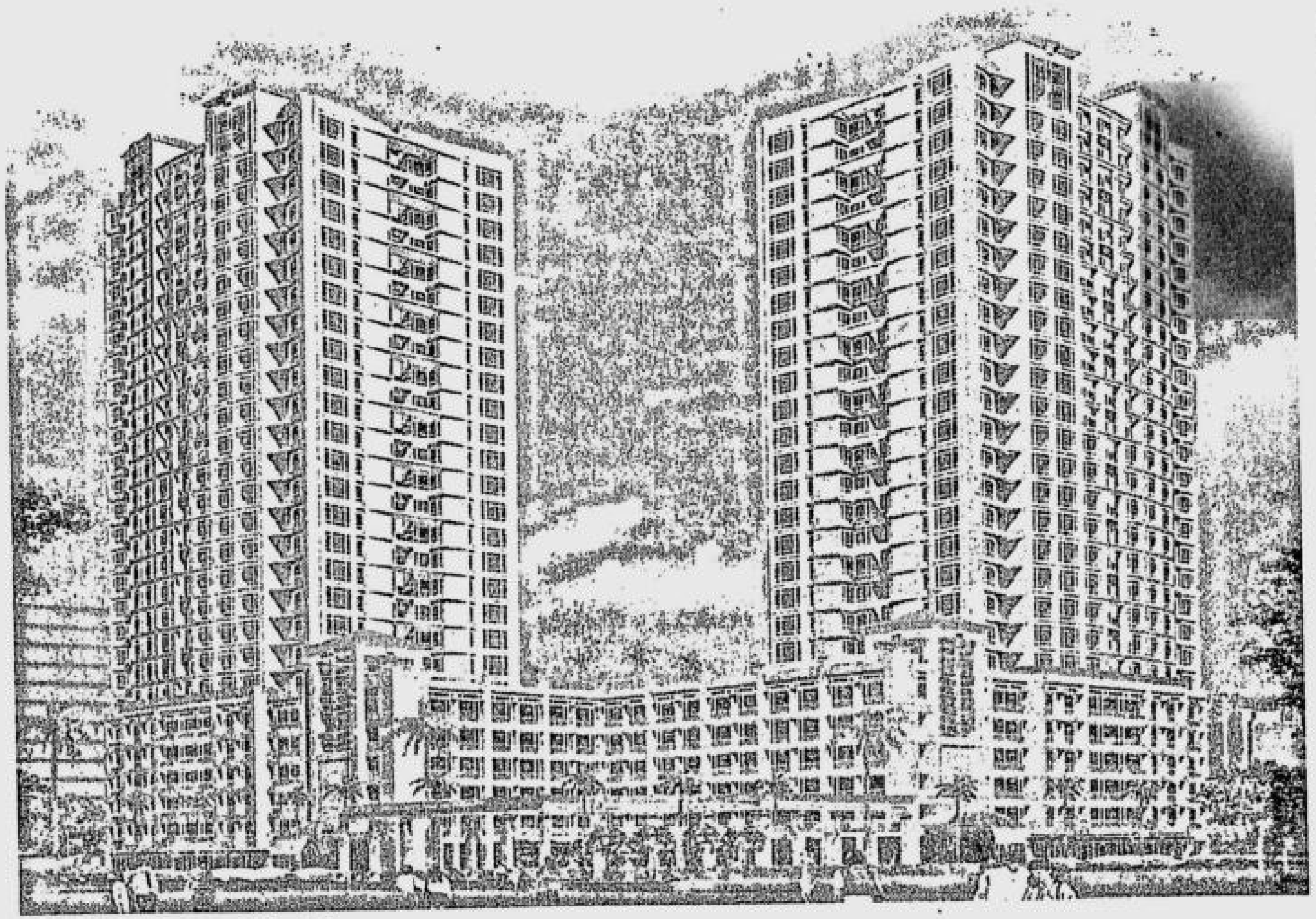
Serena, Martina, Anna

Newly weds will simply fall for Serena, 2-bedroom single-attached house with a total floor area of 70 sq. m. Chat Fores of Astetik Design/Konstruct Inc. incorporated the living, dining rooms and the kitchen layouts to provide a spacious gathering place for family and friends. The furniture layout was designed for easy movement and the kitchen with a bar counter for mobility and space. The location of the stairs was given consideration to provide more space in the ground floor area for a sunken floor with gray decorative stones.

The second floor consists of a guest room, a mini foyer and the master's bedroom, created with a lot of space and natural lighting. Natural colors are once more prevalent as in the other model houses. A 3-bedroom single-attached model house, Martina has a 92-sq.-m total floor area while the Anna model house is a 3-bedroom single-detached type with a total floor area of 99.50 sq. m. Anna model house carries a neo-classical, typical mold wherein family activities are confined on the ground floor and the second floor is where all the bedrooms are situated.

Living the life of comfort

By Charles E. Buban



ORIENTAL Gardens Makati

PROPERTY developers continue to deliver remarkable projects despite the fact that the country's property market is facing tough times. Residential condominiums remain a favorite. As developers focus more on the quality of their projects, they realized that they have to offer tenants and buyers the best deal for their hard-earned money.

For this reason, Federal Land Inc. is developing Oriental Gardens Makati, a 30-storey, twin tower residential condominium located at the corner of Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) and Urban Avenue.

Oriental Gardens Makati offers a luxurious yet affordable executive residence combining oriental influence with today's modern comforts.

"Condominium living is still the upscale preference for buyers because of the varied luxuries and conveniences the place offers," says Ramon Aldaba, first VP for sales and marketing of Federal Land Inc.

Orchid and Lotus towers

Says Aldaba: "Vertical structures seen in context of business, but we have made a case in point by successfully building high-rise apartments and condominiums in the past. The Oriental Gardens Makati is no different."

Each of the two towers named Orchid and Lotus, will feature a variety of studio, one- to three-bedroom units and penthouse suites, which are ideal for the up and coming young professionals and entrepreneurs looking for a trendy lifestyle, and within close proximity of their work or business.

A typical Oriental Gardens Makati unit features a master bedroom with built-in closet space, automated fire alarm, heat and smoke detection and sprinkler systems, stand-by generator and multilevel covered car park.

Tranquility and harmony

Oriental Gardens Makati is envisioned by its developer as a home focused on tranquility, comfort and relaxation. That's why amenities in the twin towers included a spacious clubhouse and multipurpose function rooms, a podium garden with Koi pond, a resort-style swimming pool, aerobics and exercise gym, outdoor children's playground, landscaped roof garden and gallery for coffee shop, concessionaires and specialty retail shops.

"These amenities are what makes condominium living ideal. It allows residents to do things they enjoy most but can't get right way if they live somewhere else," explains Aldaba.

With a variety of financing terms available, one can own a unit at the Oriental Gardens Makati for as low as P17,500 per month amortization.

Its exclusive marketing arm, the Omni-Orient Marketing Network Inc. will take care of what financial package best suits the client.

A member of Metrobank Group, Federal Land has provided other notable and impressive high-profile business centers and secure, inviting residential structures such as the GT Tower International at the corner of Buendia and Ayala Avenues, Bayview International Towers in Manila Bay, PSBank Tower and Skyland Plaza in Buendia, Makati City.

AYALA Greenfield Estates Village clubhouse

Clubhouse echoes mountain grandeur

WHEN you come down from the South Luzon Expressway through the Batangas exit, perhaps you will notice a structure that rests on a hilltop. No, it doesn't shout out at you? It's nothing garish or overly designed. Perched 340 meters above sea level, with undulating land that borders the area and a breathtaking countryside vista, the structure softly yet powerfully resonates the splendor of its natural surroundings.

The village clubhouse of Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna, is a piece of architectural art by the prestigious Leandro V. Locsin Partners. It consists of two connected pavilions with pitched roofs that echo the form of the mountain. The architects incorporated a great deal of transparency in the design, so that even from within the social hall, visitors are made constantly aware of their beautiful surroundings. This theme of oneness with nature is further reflected in the material choices—grayish brown and blue-green stone, and "firefly" lights that illuminate the clubhouse. Designing the clubhouse was sort of a peculiar process, according to Leandro Y. Locsin Jr., son of National Artist Leandro Locsin Sr., and administrator and design consultant of LV Locsin Partners.

Architect Orly Mateo, who lead the project team for the awe-inspiring Monastery of the Transfiguration on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon, was the team leader of the group that prevailed in the clubhouse competition. His team then took charge of the new clubhouse.

More natural

The village clubhouse has the Laguna de Bay, Manila's skyline, Laguna's plains, Tagaytay ridge for a view and the majestic Mt. Makiling as backdrop. "The scheme recognized that the mountain—nature itself—is far more powerful than anything that you could possibly build so that it would be useless to compete. The idea was really to "echo" the form of the mountain and be much more respectful toward it. Even the landscapers took that as their cue not to do something incredibly geometric or incredibly manmade but something more natural. "It's not about subjugating nature but being in harmony with it," states Locsin.

The recently inaugurated clubhouse blends with its natural environment without being anonymous. It looks nothing like other community clubhouses, which typically adopt schemes like "Spanish-Mediterranean or South Florida." "Our firm has always been about not giving our clients something one would not normally expect," he continues. "We wanted to do something rather different, something that actually spoke of the location, the culture."

Refreshed vision

Locsin, his partners and their team of architects believe that pushing the edge does not mean hyperdesigning the structure, where one doesn't feel like anything can be moved or touched. "Look for the essence, distill it, then reinterpret it, that's how you push the art, so to speak." Of course it helped that the clients, Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp., in Locsin's words, "have been very enlightened clients. They did not stick us with any preconceived esthetic parameters. For architects, a 'signature style' often can be an ego thing more than anything else. Every time there's a project, we try to look at things objectively with refreshed vision, try to find the most appropriate way to fit the puzzle together, that's how you keep the architecture fresh."

More accessible than Tagaytay or Baguio, the 500-hectare Ayala Greenfield Estates offers urban-weary souls a host of leisure opportunities. Clubhouse guests can lounge at the coffee shop, relax in the steam room or frolic with the family in the infinity swimming pool. Nature lovers will delight in the open play field and the tranquility of the lagoon.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

WG&A supports art center in Negros; exhibits planned

WG&A Philippines is actively engaged in providing direct support to various cultural activities nationwide. WG&A is a major sponsor of a new art center in Negros.

The Art Center in Negros believes in the mission/vision "Building Better Lives Through Art". Located in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental, the center is aimed at promoting and inculcating art and cultural awareness among the communities in the province of Negros. Managed by a non-stock, non-profit foundation, the Art Center would like to uphold the importance of art as a tool in education and social development.

Thematic exhibitions will showcase artworks by renowned contemporary Filipino artists that include National Artist Arturo Luz, and the likes of Nunelucio Alvarado, Charlie Co, Viriglio Aviado, Larry Alcala, Fil Dela Cruz, Elmer Borlongan, Fabian Dela Rosa, Demetrio Diego, Cenon Rivera, Juvenal Sanso, Dr. Brenda Fajardo, Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Ibarra Dela Rosa, Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, Pablo Baens-Santos, Romeo Tabuena, Kiko Escora and Mark Mallari, to mention a few.

Moreover, The Center's library and research section is offering up-to-date Philippine and foreign publications on art. These will be available for public use. The Center has lined-up other art-related activities, workshops, symposia and performances in the years to come.

To make the Art Center accessible to all interested guests nationwide, WG&A offers regular trips to Bacolod (departs from Manila every Thursdays and Sundays). Return trips from Bacolod to Manila are scheduled every Wednesdays and Sundays. For more information on other scheduled trips, call 528-7000.

CLUB NOKIA AT SM MEGAMALL

Mobile phone leader Nokia gave its customers the best back-to-school treat during the recent Experience Nokia Activity and Nokia Care Service at the SM Megamall. The activity showcased the latest lineup of Nokia phones—from the 3350 to the 8910—and allowed customers to have a 'personal encounter' with the products by trying its unique features. Lucky booth visitors also walked away with special gifts from Nokia. The Nokia Service Clinic was also open for phone check-ups and repairs by a team of Nokia experts as part of Nokia's commitment to provide after-sales support to its users. Nokia phones and original Nokia accessories were also sold at discounted prices. Shown is Noel Oribello, Nokia mobile phones business controller, with a Nokia product specialist assisting customers signing up at the Club Nokia booth. Club Nokia offers various services and treats to its members.

4A'S AD SUMMIT ON THE ROAD

The Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (4As-P) recently promoted its 'First Quarter Storm' Advertising Summit at the Marketing and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores) general membership meeting in New World Hotel, Makati. To be held on Aug. 29 to 31 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, the summit will feature a lineup of business topics with top practitioners as speakers. There will also be special evenings to honor founding fathers of the 4As and the 'Pilak 25 Pilipino Advertising Klasiks' the country has produced over the past century. Shown, from left, are Bienvenido Niles Jr., VP for housing and programs of Mores, Adie Pena, 4As Advertising Summit chair, Carol Sarthou, ex-officio of Mores, Evelyn Generoso, president of Mores, and Billy Rockwell, 4As Advertising Summit PR chair.

Upholding the TIP mission through choral art

THE TECHNOLOGICAL Institute of the Philippines (TIP) recently formed its official chorale called the TIP Choral Society (TIPCS) under the music directorship of Oneill Torres.

The TIPCS is made up of TIP students and alumni who rehearse regularly to perform in various concerts and programs inside and outside the school.

The chorale was conceived by Angelo Lahoz, assistant vice president for administration, borne out of the observation that there were so many talented TIP students who enjoyed singing during school ceremonies and programs.

The TIPCS is one of the school administration's answers to the need to provide an outlet for the student's creative talents in a technological setting.

Torres is an alumnus of the world-renowned Ateneo Glee Club, a student of the Asian Institute of Liturgy and Music and currently also a faculty member of TIP.

In preparation for the upcoming concerts and performances for this school year 2002-2003, the TIPCS has undergone training on music theory and vocal production under Benjamin Dia of the UP College of Music and Agnes Barredo of the Hong Kong Academy of Music.

The TIPCS performed in a launching mass-concert July 5 at the TIP Chapel, and will perform in the annual "Alay Kay Maria" Marian Song Festival at the Ateneo High School this September. The TIPCS sings in the 5:30 p.m. mass at the Our Lady of Edsa Shrine every first and third Thursday of the month.

SLIMMERS WORL

KELLOGGS SPONSORS SWI KIDS' RACE

Miss Yodarabe, product manager of Kelloggs Cornflakes, awarded the winners of its sponsored game of sack race during the Kid's Fitness Awareness Campaign of Slimmers World at the Metro Ayala Cebu. The event was also made possible by Disudrin, Vaseline Amino Collagen Shampoo, Fruit-Tella, Poten-Cee, The Waterfront Hotel, Zcardz, Purefoods Beef Loaf, Quaker Oats, Dole Fruit Blast, Lipton Iced Tea, Goodwill Bookstore, Rebisco Happy Faces, Neo Crackers, Conjac Jelly, Julie's Bakeshop, and White King.

CAFE.
SPLASH
refr

NESTLE-TATERS TIEUP

Taters, the 'total entertainment snack store', recently signed an agreement with Nestle Food Service, making Nestea the official iced tea in all Taters outlets in Metro Manila. Shown are Manny Parroco, SVP-Nestle Foodservices and Ana Maria Tanchanco president of Taters Enterprises Inc. sealing the agreement with a handshake. Joining them are (from left) Dinna Marie Santos, key account specialist, Jojo Bolima, assistant vice president-operations, JP Tanchanco, and Manny Villanueva, assistant manager-field sales.

BITS Clips

New function venue in Jupiter

FOREST Grill Bar and Restaurant has recently come up with a new dimension. It now has a function room that can accommodate from 100-150 persons. The function room is fully air-conditioned and is available for all kinds of functions, events or any gathering. For corporate functions, Forest Grill's new function room is conducive for trainings, seminars, business meetings and product launchings. To complement the need for cost-cutting budgets, Forest Grill has whipped up exciting yet inexpensive seminar packages from P180 to P250 per head, inclusive of food, accommodation and seminar equipment. Forest Grill Bar and Restaurant is located at 12 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati at 896-5240.

Anti-aging center launched

THE COUNTRY'S first anti-aging was launched recently with government officials and executives from the private sector as guests. Headed by the country's multi-awarded Filipino pioneering cosmetic surgeon Dr. Jane P. Enriquez, the Anti-Aging Center for Asia Inc. (Accai) provides the growing Filipino elderly population hope via natural rejuvenation therapy using the wholistic approach—Human Growth Hormone—testosterone, plus leading anti-oxidants now internationally accepted by physicians and scientists alike. Accai will introduce, for the first time in the country, the popular 'Hyperbaric Chamber' oxidation therapy used by pop music star Michael Jackson. Accai can be called at 523-3594.

Harvent topnotcher in California school

JASON Quinto Sinocruz, Harvent School's (Lingayen) 9-year-old grade school graduate, graduated salutatorian of the Ayala High School class 2002 in Anaheim, California last June. He was voted 'most intelligent' bythe AHS Class of 2002, having cinched a string of academic honors and scholarships, namely the Ayala High School Scholar of the Year, CSF and GSE distinctions, Graduation Cords for National Honor Society, California Scholarship Federation, Golden State Examination, High 5 Society, Academic Olympiad, Skills USA, Junior State of America, Boys State, Varsity English and Bulldog Hall of Fame. Sinocruz will attend Stanford University this fall. His parents hail from Lingayen, Pangasinan.

MASTERCARD LAUNCHES PROMO

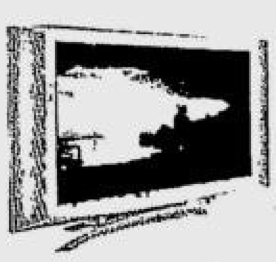
MasterCard International has launched its latest promotion MasterCard's Priceless Delights Promo exclusively at Power Plant at Rockwell and the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Open at all MasterCard and MasterCard Electronic cardholders in the Philippines, the promo offers ticket premiums, instant gift items, and 50 cash credits worth P20,000 each as prizes. The promo is ongoing at MasterCard's Priceless Delights activity booths in each mall until Sept. 30. Shown are executives from MasterCard, Power Plant, Harrison Communications, and 1-ISA, MasterCard's advertising and promotions agency, respectively, at the MasterCard activity booth in Power Plant. Shown, from left, are Boy Granados, vice president of Power Plant, Judith Dayrit, director for marketing and member relations of MasterCard, Tey San Diego, business unit director of Harrison, and Delfin Warren, chair of 1-ISA.

HIGHVIEW ROYALE GROUNDBREAKING RITES

Highview Royale, an exclusive residential community designed as an upbeat haven for the middle class, was formally launched recently during groundbreaking rites. Located 15 minutes from Fairview, it offers the most modern and contemporary style of living set amidst the scenic view of San Jose Del Monte's lush greenery and ecologically protected watershed. Its strategic location will also benefit from the next expansion plan of the MRT and C-6 road. Shown is Ongching Realty and Developments Corp. general manager Monica Ching with top marketing agents during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Product FILES

Philips Flat TV awarded



THE EUROPEAN Imaging and Sound Association (Eisa) once again named Philips' Flat TV the 2001-2002 European Plasma TV of the Year.p Widely recognized as one of the most prestigious award-giving bodies in the consumer electronics industry, Eisa commended the Flat TV's high contrast and sharpness, which guarantees excellent picture quality.

The award-winning TV set is equipped with some of the world's latest picture-enhancement technologies, like the Digital Natural Motion, Dynamic Contrast, and Digital Comb Filter. Cinema-style viewing is also achieved with the Philips Flat TV's Incredible Surround, a unique Philips feature that creates an enhanced, room-filled stereo effect. The Philips Flat TV comes in 32" and 42" sizes.

LIPB, ALI HOST LAGUNA BUSINESS DIALOGUE

The Laguna Investment Promotions Bureau (LIPB) and Ayala Land Inc. recently hosted the second in a series of informal dialogues with Laguna Governor Teresita Lazaro and the Laguna business community at the Nature Park Clubhouse at the Ayala Greenfield Estates in Barangay Maunong, Calamba City. Taken up during the dialogue, which was considered a success, were business and investment concerns of the province. Shown are the board members of the Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Lazaro (center) with (from left) Tourism Association of Laguna president Nilcar Donato, LIPB chair Bobby A. Chan, Asia Brewery finance manager Gil F. Bautista, Toyota Motor loss control office manager Eduardo Nicolas, Luzon Development Bank president Tomas Clemente Jr., LCCI Comelec head Lito Mendoza, Honda Cars management services AVP Fred Magpayo and Laguna International Industrial Park Association administrator Gil Abaquin.

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **FJ ENERGY CENTER, INC.** with office address at **18th Floor Pryce Center, 1179 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **Expanding Distribution facilities for Liquified Petroleum Gas (LGP) including depot/bulk handling under R.A. 8479, otherwise known as Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act** at a capacity of **two 20-MT storage tanks** with project site at **Tacloban City, Leyte** has been officially accepted on **July 23, 2002** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 23rd day of July 2002.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO I. BAGAPORO**
Officer-In-Charge
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

(PDI - July 30, 2002)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATION SERVICES

Contract No. ADB/OAS-2002/030

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification in the bidding for Telecommunications Operation Services at ADB Building, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The services include all works necessary to maintain ADB's fax, telex, telephone switchboard and Communication Center operations, as well as the daily routine of the leased line for all existing and future Regional Missions (RMs) and Regional Offices (ROs) through scheduled abbreviated dialing. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement given to interested applicants.
2. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily-formed joint ventures from eligible members of ADB meeting the following criteria:
    i. Legally registered commercial enterprise or a subsidiary of a company established for at least ten (10) years in the business of providing telecommunications operation services;
    ii. Makes available one staff supervisor with at least 4 years college education and 10 years experience in the telecoms operation related services, 7 years of which in a supervisory capacity, and proficient in the use of Personal Computers (PCs);
    iii. Minimum of 5 clients (2 of which must be current) with similar scope and nature of service rendered as described above;
    iv. A generated annual revenue of P15 million derived from telecommunications operation services for the last three (3) years;
    v. Available credit of P3 million.
3. The contract shall be for one year and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.
4. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by calling or faxing the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of the Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippine at Tel. Nos. 632-5641, 632-4231, Fax No. 636-2567 and e-mail address: adjusupbekova@adb.org or dmuñoz@adb.org from **31 July to 6 August 2002** (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) The documents are available are available for a non-refundable fee of Pesos Three Hundred (P300.00).
5. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail to:

   Head, Contracts Section
   General Services Division
   Office of the Administrative Services
   Asian Development Bank
   No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
   Philippines

   not later than **6 September 2002**, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Telecommunications Operation Services. Contract No. ADB/OAS-2002/030".
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and to reply only to the companies, which are considered by ADB to be prequalified.

(Sgd.) **NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN**
Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – July 29 & 30, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late PASCUAL C. VINOYA executed an extrajudicial settlement and partition with waiver and renunciation of rights and Special Power of Attorney for TCT No. P-2723 Bukidnon on June 10, 2002 as per Doc.No. 163 Page No. 34 Book No. 18 Series of 2002 of Notary Public Julita Aningat of Pasay City.
PDI-July30, Aug.6&13, 2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that PAM Parking Slot #14 in the name of RONALD RAQUEL has been lost. If no contest received, new cert. will be issued. (PDI July 28, 29, 30, 2002)

PERSONAL

LISA,
I may not be with you everyday, but one thing I promise you... I'll be there on your wedding day standing beside you, while saying the words... YES I DO.
HAPPY 2ND ANNIVERSARY!!!
RIGEL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT FOR GRACES RECEIVED MA. C.M.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

Industrial Galvanizers Corporation of the Philippines

A multi-national firm based in Cavite, engaged in **Galvanizing and Steel Poles Fabrication** is looking for a highly competent individual to fill in a key position in the organization and play a major role in its growth and development.

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

The Role
To oversee Quality Assurance activities and implement Q.A. measures towards ISO accreditation in the year 2002 for galvanizing operations, which cover quality inspection, testing for inbound and outbound work and provide recommendation in improving galvanizing quality, completion and delivery.

Qualifications
- 1 to 3 years experience as Q.A. Officer in an industrial setting
- Preferably Engineering graduate
- With experience in time and motion study
- Have handled production scheduling
- With exceptional coordination skills
- Computer literate

Due to the urgency of the requirement, interested qualified applicants should prepare a resumé with the following information details of work experience; current and expected earnings; photograph and contact phone numbers. Resumé should be mailed together with copies of transcript of records and birth certificate on or before **02 August 2002** to the **HR & Admin Officer, Industrial Galvanizers Corp. of the Phils., Brgy. Conchu, Trece Martires City, Cavite or fax the same at 046-4191829.** For inquiries, please call **046-4191837. We will respond only to short listed candidates.**

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OBITUARIES

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LAW OFFICES

extends its deepest sympathies to the family, relatives, and friends of its beloved founding partner

Atty. DAISY G. ZAMBRANO

UP Law Class 1973
December 28, 1948 - July 25, 2002

Her remains lie in state at the Church of the Risen Lord, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City.
A necrological service will be held on August 1, 2002, 7 p.m., Thursday.
An ecumenical service will be celebrated on August 3, 2002, 8 a.m., Saturday.
Interment will follow at the Holy Cross Memorial Garden, Novaliches, Quezon City.

"And I shall dwell in the
House of the Lord forever....."
Psalm 23:6

Atty. DAISY G. ZAMBRANO

UP Law Class 1973
December 28, 1948 - July 25, 2002

DZ to Mamang Pinay, Leni, Art
Ading to Armando
Manang to Melody, Gladys, Dave, Angie
Tita Ganda to Lendell, Lester, Tina, Ayn Ruth, Leanne, Dino, Jaja, Kevin, Lady Dazha, Alain
Lola to Jelai

She joined her Papang Guding & Manang Marjorie in Paradise at the age of 53.

"We will keep you close as always
It won't even seem you've gone
Because our hearts, in big and small ways,
Will keep the love that makes us strong."

Her remains lie in state at the Church of the Risen Lord, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City.
A necrological service will be held on August 1, 2002, 7 p.m., Thursday.
An ecumenical service will be celebrated on August 3, 2002, 8 a.m., Saturday.
Interment will follow at the Holy Cross Memorial Garden, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Message of Thanks

The bereaved husband **Severino Ramos**; daughter **Gracia**; grandchildren **Gladys** and **Ian**; sisters **Luz M. Garcia, Rebecca M. Maramba, Josefina M. Majaba**, nephews and nieces, and other relatives of the late

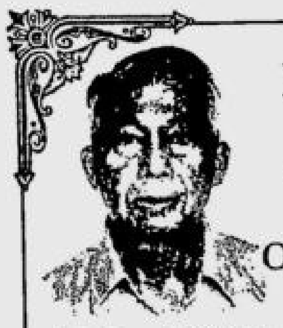
Julieta Maniaul - Ramos

who has gone peacefully to the Land of the Great Beyond to join her Creator on July 22, 2002.

wish to extend their most wholesome gratitude and deepest appreciation to all those who condoled with them in countless ways in the dark hour of their bereavement.

May the good Lord shower upon all of you his bountiful blessings for your exceptional display of concern and sympathy.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6



In Loving Memory
of the
2nd Death Anniversary
of
Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

DR. ISABELO G. GACUSAN

of
Candon, Ilocos Sur

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches on July 30, 2002:

San Juan de Sahagun Parish Candon, Ilocos Sur	5:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur	6:00 a.m.
St. James the Greater Parish Santiago, Ilocos Sur	6:00 a.m.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur	6:30 a.m.
Sto. Niño De Paz Chapel Greenbelt, Makati	7:15 a.m.
Our Lady of the Pillar Parish Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 a.m.
Parish of Jesus, Lord of Divine Mercy Mapayapa Village I, Quezon City	7:00 p.m.

The Family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

CARD OF THANKS

The family and relatives of the late

Rosita Reyes Ceguera

who peacefully joined her Creator
on July 19, 2002

wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to all those who in one way or another condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.

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PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-1320 Local 5279

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

1) **50 units 15 KVA Transformers**
2) **80 units 25 KVA Transformers**
under FGJ - 22108

This invitation is open to all eligible suppliers of PNOC-Energy Development Corporation. Prospective bidders not presently pre-qualified with PNOC-Energy Development Corporation shall submit their pre-qualification documents **not later than fourteen (14) days before the deadline for the submission of the bids. The bids of prospective (but not yeat pre-qualified) bidders who fail to submit their pre-qualification documents before the above deadline or those who fail to meet the company's pre-qualification requirements on the bid deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.**

Bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Raffy S. Teylan** starting **June 24, 2002** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bdding conference shall be held on **July 4, 2002, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security to be issued by the local agent/ distributor, if any, with the amount indicated in the tender document, in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC and must be delivered to the above office on or before 2:00 p.m. of July 29, 2002. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) **SERGIO ANTONIO F. APOSTOL**
Chairman/President/C.E.O.

(PDI - July 2 & 30, 2002)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F, BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel No. (02) 892 0278
Fax (02) 892-0345

Brgy. Batangas Dos
Mariveles, Bataan
Tel No (047) 244-5884 to 87
Fax (047) 244-5883

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently in good standing, to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I	Work Order No.	: WSA-01-029
II	Project Title	Two Year Supply of Security Services for Petrochemical Park, Limay / Mariveles, Bataan
III.	Scope of Work	: To guard and protect all personnel/employees as well as premises and properties of the company from theft, pilferage, robbery, arson, trespass/informal dwellers, bodily harm and other unlawful acts. To assign and provide PPDC with 40 competent security personnel (36 security guards and 4 officers) for PPDC Mariveles and Limay. To provide various equipment, facilities, trainings and other services necessary and essential in carrying out the security services. Strictly comply with all rules, regulations, special / general orders and administrative guidelines of PPDC during their tour of duties.
IV.	Project Location	Petrochemical Park in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan
V.	Approved Budget	Pesos Eleven Million Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Four Hundred (P 11,270,400.00)
VI.	Source of Funding	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII.	Estimated Contract Duration	Two (2) Years
VIII.	Similar Contracts	At least One (1) Year Supply of Security Services for Industrial Parks, Techno Parks, Export Processing Zones
IX.	Registration	
	Date of Registration	July 23 to August 05, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
	Requirements	Submit certified true copies of the following basic requirements signed by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative together with the original copies for validation: • Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Phils • Mayor's Permit/ Municipal License • Taxpayer's Identification Number • Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation • BIR VAT Registration • Current PNP License to Operate (for Year 2002) • Current PADPAO Certificate of Membership • DOLE Clearance / Certificate (of no pending cases) • DOLE Certificate of Registration • SSS Clearance • Notarized certification under oath by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original/copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
X.	Eligibility Statement Forms and Bid Documents	: One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted.
	Non-Refundable Cost of Forms and Bid Documents	: Two Hundred Pesos each set (P200.00/set)
	Date of Issuance	August 01 to 13, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat
XI.	Pre-bid Conference	
	Date and Time	August 22, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.
	Place	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o BAC Secretariat
XII.	Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Forms / Bid Documents	:
	Deadline of Submission	September 13, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.
	Place of Submission	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o BAC Secretariat

XIII. **PUBLIC OPENING OF BIDS SHALL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF THE SUBMISSION OF ACCOMPLISHED ELIGIBILITY FORMS AND BID DOCUMENTS. LATE DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

All bids must be valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of opening bids.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of opening of bids equivalent to the amount and in the form acceptable to PPDC as indicated in Instructions to Bidders.

All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Approved Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder's whose bid s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DINAGIBA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--July 23 & 30, 2002)

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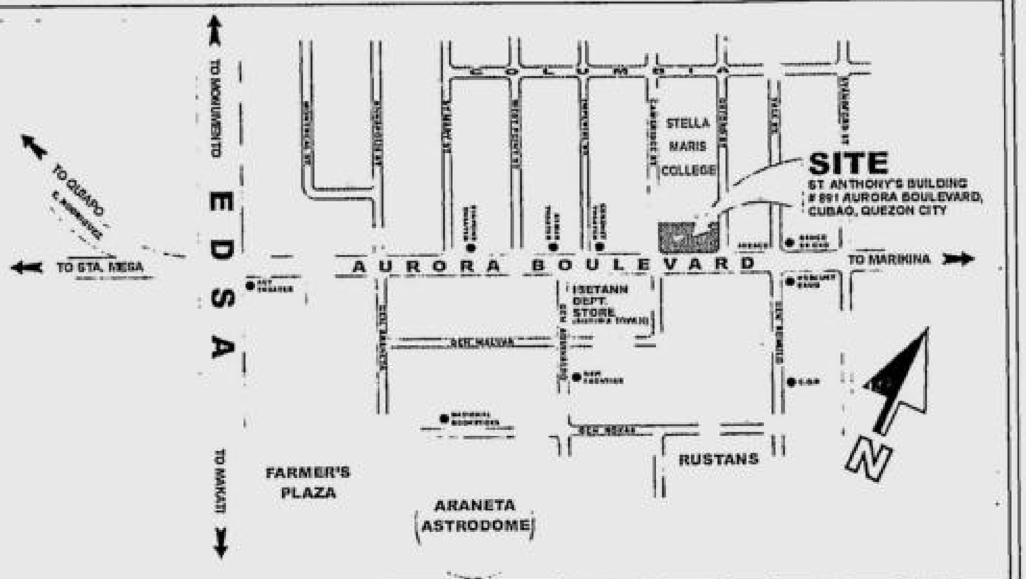


OBITUARIES

FRANCISCO C. DE LOS SANTOS

"Ka Paquito" of Obando, Bulacan
"Kuya Frank" of San Miguel, Manila

peacefully joined his Creator on July 28, 2002
at the age of 75.

He lies in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel I, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Daily Masses are offered at 8:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass shall be on August 3, 2002 at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church, 8:30 a.m. and followed by Cremation services at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, 11 a.m.

His wife **Flor**; children and in-laws **Raul** and **Johana**, **Rachel**, **Roel** (†), **Ronald** and **Arleen**, **Rheena** and **Paul**; grandchildren **Jonathan**, **Ariana**, **Jason** and **Ysabel**; family and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me.
All their joys of my life;
and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever...
Psalms 41:13

Our Dearly Beloved Father

DR. AMADO T. LEE - VILLANUEVA

peacefully joined his Creator and his late wife
***Alice Huang Lee** on July 29, 2002 at the age of 81.*

He is survived by his children **Wilson** and **Elizabeth**, **Lilian** & **Benito Que**, **Walter** and **Tita**, **Eugene** and **Senia**, **Evelyn** & **Jefferson Sy**, **Johnson** & **Elreen** and **Gabriel** & **Lynette**; grandchildren **Michael**, **Hans** and **Chiqui**; **Mark**, **RG**; **Derrick**, **Daphne Denise**, **Stephanie**, **Sarah**, **Coby** & **Allison**; great grandchild **Marian**; and longtime companion **Irma Soyangco**.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment tentatively set at 9:00 A.M. August 3, 2002, Saturday at the Chinese Cemetery, La Loma, Manila.

Leonor Aragon Purugganan

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 28, 2002
at the age of 65.

Beloved wife of **Gen. Eustaquio A. Purugganan** (†); her children **Geri**, **Eden** & **Ernie**, **Mel** & **Roy**, **Joel** & **Jasmin**; grandchildren **Bernice** & **Maki**, **Choy** & **Rex**, **Jael**; brothers & sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Sapinoso Chapel, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 3, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at the Angelus Eternal Gardens, Imus, Cavite.

CONSEJO R. INFANTE

Died in the grace of our Lord on July 25, 2002
at the age of 84.

Her bereaved husband **Ret. Judge Juan Infante** (+); children **MIGUEL & ELY**, **JUAN INFANTE, JR.**, **FELIZA & BEN**, **GIL & NICE**; grandchildren **MELVIN**, **JELYN**, **CHRISTIAN & ANGELO**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at family residence at Del Rosario Street, Pambujan, Northern Samar.

Interment will be on August 5, 2002 at the Pambujan Cemetery after the 9:30AM Mass.

Ofelia Cipriaso-Gutierrez

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 27, 2002 at the age of 71.

Her loving husband **Teodoro**; children and children-in-law **Ricardo** & **Ma. Isabel**, **Joselito**, **Roberto** & **Lucia**, **Jesus** & **Marie Josephine** and **Ma. Theresa**; grandchildren **Ma. Aya Carmela**, **Jose Paolo**, **Luis Anton**, **Isabella Maria** and **Alex**; sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on July 31, 2002 at Angelus Memorial Park, Bacoor, Cavite after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church.

"Our light affliction, which is but for a moment is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

First Death Anniversary
in Loving Memory of

Jean Agnes P. Hernando

(January 21, 1962 - July 30, 2001)

Her mother Juanita; her brothers and sisters Eugenio, Balbino & Sally, Carlota, Aurea, Francis & Marge; her niece Monica; her nephew Miguel; and her daughter
Angelica

request relatives, friends and readers to remember her in their prayers and to join in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to be offered on:

July 30	
Holy Family Parish Church, *Kapitolyo, Pasig City*	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, *Broadway, Quezon City*	9:00 a.m.
Mount Carmel Monastery, *Gilmore, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel, *Camp Atienza, Libis, Quezon City*	6:30 a.m.
Christ the King Church, *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

WILLIAM LORETO "BILL" VALASOTE

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on July 25, 2002 at the age of 78.

His remains lie in state at Resurrection II. Chapel, 2nd Floor, Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 3, 2002 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani after the Necrological Mass at 11:00 a.m.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

First Pacific offers 5-point compromise

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIRST Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong has offered Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s board a five-point compromise to end a stalemate over a $925-million hostile takeover bid by tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

In a statement issued yesterday, First Pacific said the compromise includes a special plan that addresses the PLDT board's anti-trust concerns.

Reacting to the offer, a PLDT official said that the PLDT board "has already made a decision through (its) June 6, 2002 resolution against allowing a competitor to engage in any form of due diligence. The (memorandum of agreement) between First Pacific and JG Summit Holdings Inc. confirms that a competitor is party to the transaction and is in violation of the PLDT by-laws and, therefore, cannot and will not be allowed due diligence."

The PLDT board has argued that Gokongwei cannot sit as a director or even conduct a due diligence since he presides over a conglomerate that includes rival firm Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

First Pacific and the Gokongwei group earlier agreed to form a joint venture to take over First Pacific's 24.5-percent PLDT stake, which equates to a 31.6-percent voting interest.

The PLDT board insists that Gokongwei's interest in Digitel will violate PLDT by-laws. It has also cited other legal matters such as First Pacific's and the Gokongwei group's supposed failure to file the right documentation on the deal.

Under the compromise proposal, First Pacific and the PLDT board will jointly agree to "due diligence review parameters" on what information will be released to Gokongwei.

First Pacific and the Gokongwei group will then negotiate the details of the transaction documentation and will make "an appropriate presentation to the PLDT board of directors," which will take up their concerns over the entry of the Gokongwei group.

The proposed compromise also calls for First Pacific and the Gokongwei group to also meet with Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., which owns 15 percent of PLDT.

This meeting with NTT, which is also reportedly unhappy with the proposed entry of Gokongwei, will address the Japanese company's rights under the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal.

In an excerpt of the letter sent to the PLDT board, First Pacific said the plan "will permit the boards of our two companies to focus their attention and resources upon achieving a mutually acceptable resolution of the current impasse that has arisen between PLDT's board and its largest shareholder."

First Pacific said the PLDT board could discuss the proposal at a meeting on Aug. 6 and reply to it "as soon as is practicable."

A PLDT source, meanwhile, said the Indonesian government's investigation of the Salim family could create serious problems that might derail First Pacific's planned joint venture with the Gokongwei group.

The Salim family is majority owner of First Pacific.

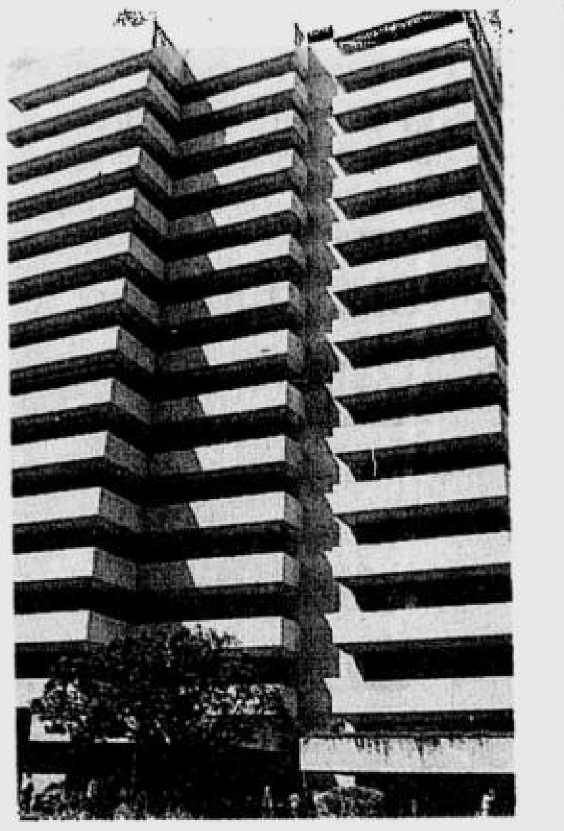
"It is unlikely that the Gokongweis would want to participate in a joint venture that may have illegal affiliations and 'crony money' attached to it," the PLDT source said.

The Indonesian government is reportedly running after Anthoni Salim, son of First Pacific founder Soedono Salim, for his unpaid debts.

A source disclosed that the Salim group agreed in a recent meeting with the Indonesian government to pay some 729.4 billion rupiah ($77.97 million) to the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency.

The fine is said to be for the Salim group's misrepresentation of the value of its assets pledged as collateral to IBRA. *With a report from Abigail L. Ho and AFP*

SALIM to PLDT: Constructive dialogue



PLDT's Makati head office

Thrift banks' real estate loans up 20%

LOANS extended by the more than 104 thrift banks in the country to the real estate sector rose by 20 percent in the first quarter this year to P41.7 billion from P34.8 billion in the same period last year.

Against the previous quarter's P37.3 billion, the exposure of savings banks to this sector in the first quarter was higher by 11.8 percent.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that 52.9 percent of the loans held by banks were used to acquire residential properties while 24.8 percent, which was held by the thrift banks' trust departments, went to the development of memorial parks.

As in the past years, the loans were concentrated in projects in Metro Manila and the National Capital Region where banks extended 76.4 percent and their trust departments allocated 61.5 percent of their portfolio.

A central bank official said the increasing loans of thrift banks to real estate should be a good sign and could help push the recovery of the sector. Loans to the real estate sector, said the BSP, should have a multiplier effect on construction and job creation.

A banker said the loans extended by banks to the real estate sector are expected to further improve in the coming months.

Loans to real estate accounted for 29 percent of the portfolio of thrift banks in the first quarter, up from 24.8 percent a year ago and 26.1 percent the previous quarter.

The past due portion of the real estate loans also went up to 12.8 percent in the first quarter this year from 11.5 percent in March 2001 and 10.2 percent in December 2001.

The commercial banks were less aggressive in lending to the real estate sector compared to thrift banks.

As of March, loans and equity of the bigger banks to this sector grew by only 0.4 percent to P195.72 billion in the first quarter compared to the previous quarter's level.

On a year-on-year basis, the exposure of the big banks, including investments of their trust department in the property sector, slid by 3.2 percent from P202.2 billion as of end-March 2001. *Clarissa S. Batino*

RP airlines need 10 yrs to prepare for open-skies—PAL

FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines said the local airline industry needed another 10 years to be viable under an open skies scenario and that the move toward such a free environment should be paced and not immediate.

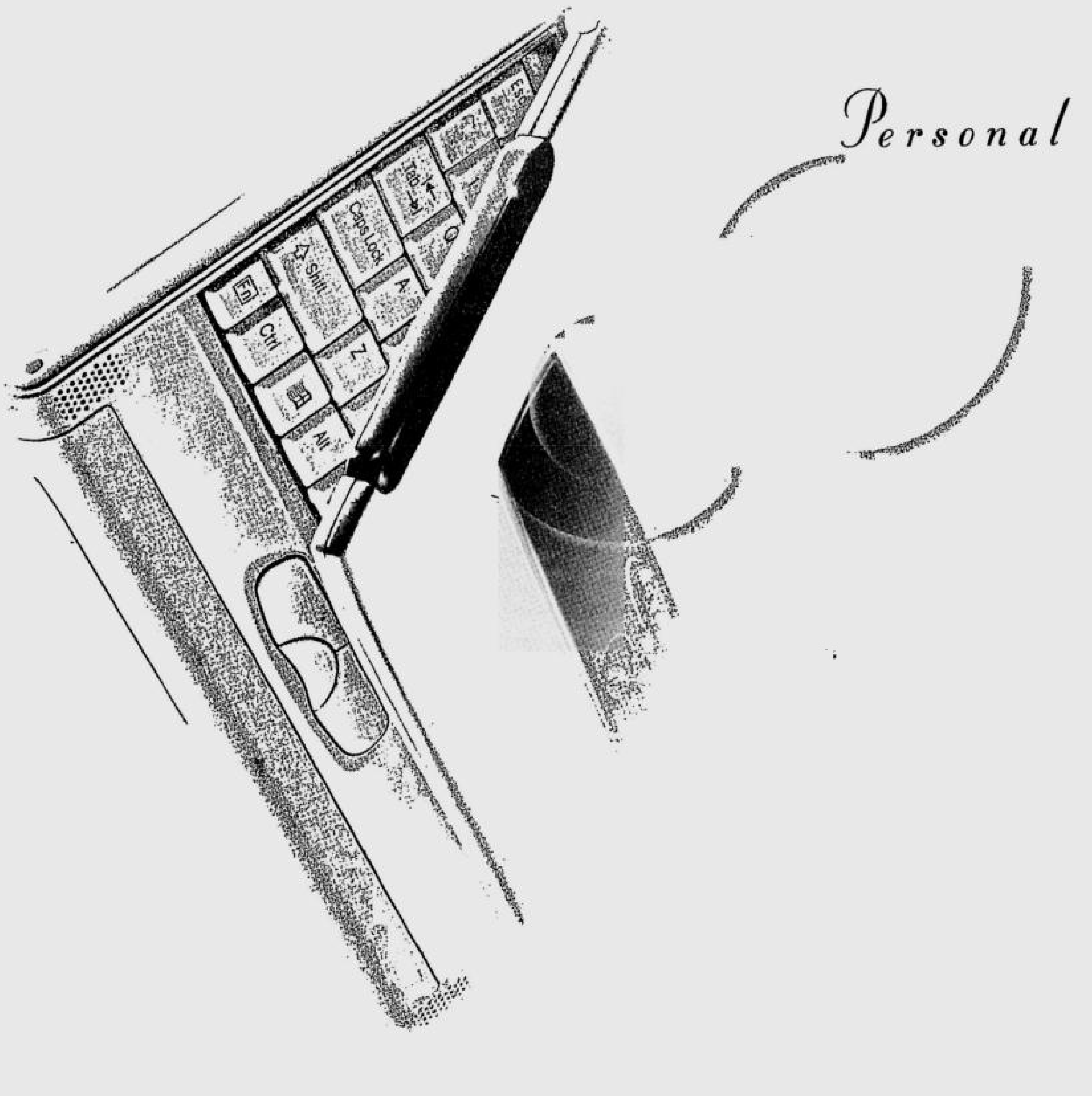
In an interview with reporters yesterday, PAL vice president for corporate communications Rolando Estabillo said the airline was not against open skies per se but the fact that the government seemed to be going too fast toward it.

"We're not really against open skies but we believe we need around 10 more years to be able to really compete with bigger airlines from other countries," he said.

He added that some countries, like the United States, had bigger airlines compared with PAL or Cebu Pacific Air.

The country is set to renegotiate its air transport agreement (ATA) with the United States anytime soon as the memorandum of understanding that the two countries have is expiring on Sept. 30, 2003.

If a renegotiation does not take place, open skies between the two countries will automatically take effect on Oct. 1, 2003, which will allow unlimited flights between the two countries. *Abigail L. Ho*



THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE FUJITSU

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TRANQUIL SPACES. Waiting area at Chi Legacy Health and Wellness Center

Where touch means being born again

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

EASTWOOD City in the bustling C5-Libis area has long been synonymous with restaurants and a nightlife that never ends. Recently, a tiny piece of paradise has made its home a stone's throw from the city's dining and entertainment row.

Chi Legacy Health and Wellness Center opened its doors this month, promising Eastwood habitues a place where the word "work" is nonexistent. Entering its doors is like passing through a portal to a tranquil place. A small flowing brook in a man-made Japanese garden greets you at the entrance and immediately the place seems to take away all your burdens.

This is a brainchild of Elvira Kueh, a former corporate banker who found healing through traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) seven years ago when she was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Refusing Western medicine, Elvira sought out alternative healing and found answers both in TCM and Indian Ayurvedic medicine.

"Chi is an alternative healing center where we believe in the power of nature to heal. Over here we respect the interdependencies in nature," Kueh says.

Chi, she explains, was put up by a group of friends from all over—Brunei, Germany, India and Indonesia. "Our cornerstone here is TCM, which is already 5,000 years old. It's a misunderstood science that needs to be made user-friendly, and it can easily be made a part of the Filipino life."

TCM is complemented by the center's other services such as European bio-stimulation.

WHERE/ p.C2

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Spotlight on

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE. Dr. Zhao Li Yan attends to a patient.

Where touch means being born again

The healing arts of the East are alive and well in Eastwood

From page C1

This is a process developed in Germany that regenerates and reintroduces energy in the body to assist certain medical conditions. Through the use of electrical impulses, the body's natural capacity for energy is mimicked, thus producing a positive reaction in the body, which helps it rid itself of toxins.

There are various treatments that address specific needs: Mind-body harmony is recommended for individuals with sleep problems and high levels of stress; Lymph drainage assists in facilitating the removal of toxins from the body; diabetic foot treatment aids in improving blood circulation in the legs and to a certain extent, healing of wounds; varicose vein treatment improves blood circulation in the legs and lessens pain caused by swelling. A special treatment called the Dorn spinal therapy incorporates the use of bio-stimulation with specific massage and body movements to correct spinal problems.

"There is usually a recommended number of sessions depending upon the person's specific condition," Kueh says.

Average cost per treatment ranges from P600-P800.

Wellness services

In addition to the wellness services, luxurious Indonesian spa treatments are offered for relaxing the body and healing the soul. Designer body massage is also one of the popular services at Chi. Gaining equal popularity among the ladies is the holistic slimming program, which is an individualized approach to slimming that is both holistic and natural. "We look at the cause of your weight problem and devise a program that is tailored to your body and mind. Our program involves TCM, bio-atimulation, food therapy and wellness treatments," Kueh says.

More importantly, before any treatment is rendered, resident experts will give you a consultation to recommend the best treatments to take and which treatments one can do without. The holistic slimming program for example, starts with a consultation with Dr. Zhao Li Yan, an associate professor at the Beijing University of traditional Chinese medicine, who holds clinic at the center for several days each month. No need to worry about communication barriers for there is also an in-house interpreter.

The center believes in the philosophy that touch is a form of healing, thus, Kueh explains, they have combined rituals and traditional herb mixes from exotic Indonesia, the Old World expertise of TCM, and the art of aromatherapy with the modern yet holistic technology and natural products from Germany.

So after an all-night partying, or if you just feel that your body has indulged in too many excesses, visit Chi and bring back the balance to your system.

CHI is located at the G/F, Lafayette One, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 602-9220.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

INDONESIAN facials using bio-stimulation

ENTRANCE to Chi Legacy at Eastwood City

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Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I filed reimbursement for one of my medical consultations, however my claim was denied. I would like to appeal my claim to your office, what should I do?

A member may appeal the negative decision to a claim by filing a written request with MEDICard Head Office within thirty (30) days after receiving notice. The request must set forth why the member believes that the decision was in error. MEDICard has a **RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE**, which convenes every week to evaluate the claim and inform the member of its final stand and the reason for such decision.

Meet your MEDICard Team

University of Santo Tomas Medicine graduate, **Dr. Edwin S. Tucay** recently joined MEDICard's roster of medical service providers. Dr. Tucay specializes in Internal Medicine where he received his residency training at the Ospital ng Maynila. He also holds subspecialization training in Adult Cardiology with residency at the Philippine Heart Center for Asia. Dr. Tucay is the current Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine of the World Citi Medical Center (WCMC), formerly known as QCMC. He is affiliated as Fellow to the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine College of Cardiology. You may visit him for your consultation needs at Rm. 210 of WCMC every Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Cardiologist **Dr. Bernard Chiew** has been part of MEDICard's medical service team for more than three years now. He finished Medicine at the Davao Medical School Foundation and later chose to specialize in Internal Medicine with residency training at Davao Doctors Hospital. He also subspecializes in Cardiology with training at the Philippine Heart Center for Asia. Dr. Chiew is a Fellow to the Philippine College of Cardiology and the Philippine College of Physicians. He is also the current President of the Philippine Heart Association-Davao Chapter. You may visit Dr. Bernard Chiew for your consultation needs at the Davao Doctors Hospital, Mondays to Fridays from 9:30 AM to 12 noon.

MEDICard accredited dentist **Dr. Yolanda Chua-Te-Buna** has been an accredited service provider since MEDICard's beginnings in 1987. This De Ocampo Memorial College Dentistry graduate has been in the practice of her profession for more than 15 years now. Doc Yolly specializes in Orthodontics and is a member of the Philippine Dental Association-Laguna Chapter. She is married and now has two children. Her free time is spent mostly at home with her 2 kids and her pet poodle, Scrappy. Visit Dr. Buna for your dental services in the San Pedro, Laguna area. She holds clinic at Rm. 201 of the Venancio-Barreto Bldg. at Mabini St. from Mondays to Saturdays 9 AM to 12 noon and then again from 3 PM to 6 in the evening.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. You may also log on to www.medicardphils.com.

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Letting go is a woman's guide to healing

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

"PAIN is the result of resistance to our natural state of well-being, and the more we pay attention to it, the more of it we attract."—Abraham

It is a total health journey all women want to take, one that guarantees a life filled with energy and joy. There is a way to find success in health, and it is called "inner guidance."

"Turning in to the power of female consciousness by giving voice to our real identity and needs, and reclaiming femininity," says Christiane Northrup, M.D. in "Women's Bodies, Women's Wisdom" (Bibliarch Bookstore).

Unity

Studies have shown that the mind and body are intimately linked via the immune, endocrine and central nervous systems. This means that any stressful situation will have immediate effects on your heart rate, blood pressure, gastric build-up, headaches, sleep patterns, appetite.

"Today, mind-body research is confirming what ancient healing traditions have always known: That the body and mind are in unity. There is no disease that isn't mental, emotional as well as physical."

Because emotions and thoughts are accompanied by biochemical reactions in our body, doesn't it make sense to control and direct them in a positive and constructive manner rather than negative and destructive?

The body speaks

In an illuminating look on illness and healing, it is explained that a disease can be a result of emotional pain. Most illnesses are manifestations of the psyche's unresolved issues.

- Broken heart, emotional hurts—cardiac complications, respiratory ailments, drug addiction;
- Unexpressed emotions (anger, frustration, fear)—throat problem, ulcers, stomach disorders;
- Unexpressed creativity, guilt over an abortion—uterine-fibroids, myomas, reproductive problems;
- Negative attitude toward most things, feelings of being victimized/over-committed to relationship, including work—migraines, headaches, hypertension.

"All emotions, even those that are suppressed and unexpressed have physical effects... they stay in the body like small, ticking time bombs."

These feelings carry negative energy that is stored in the organ or part of your body that is closely linked to the problem.

The power within

Psychologist Carl Jung explained that in our bodies live "gods and goddesses" who store positive energy capable of healing not just the physical body but also the mental and spiritual. What needs to be done?

- Respect your body.
- Connect with the self or your soul within.
- Listen to the language of your body.
- Acknowledge and use the power inside you.

Art of releasing

Healing means letting go—leaving your wounding behind. You can change your perpetual-victim mode (the role you like to play by blaming someone for your problems but never taking responsibility for your own pain).

"So much like the battered or suicidal woman who finally gets out because one day she realizes that if she stays, she dies." You can stop being a victim by knowing "when and where we are cooperating with our own oppression."

Positive change in your life or your health can happen simply by naming your current experience and allowing yourself to feel it fully—physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Crushing the enemy

The enemy is oftentimes ourselves—how we respond to our own pain.

1. Write on a piece of paper your problem or pain.
2. Acknowledge the hurt.
3. Ask for divine inspiration to transform

LETTING/ p.C5

Placing 'cold coin' in one's pocket can help prevent colds

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

LET me devote this column to some readers who have written me recently.

Crescelito A. Salvador wants to know more about the "cold coin" I mentioned in my recent column (PDI, 07/16/02). He says, "I am a chronic sinusitis sufferer and I'm interested in the power of the coin to decongest stuffy nasal passages and normalize mucous secretions. Where can I learn more about the cold coin and how it works?"

I bought the so-called "cold coin" from Edgar Cayce's Association for Research and Enlightenment (ARE) bookshop in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It is made of carbon steel and is about the size of a one-peso Philippine coin, but slightly thicker. A small hole at one edge enables one to put a chain on it. According to one psychic reading made by Edgar Cayce for a client, by placing carbon steel in one's pocket, it will prevent colds because of its natural vibration interacting with the body. This is how the actual Cayce reading goes:

"Do not take this as being something of superstition, or as something that would be a good luck charm, but if the entity will wear it, or put in one's pocket a metal that is carbon steel—preferably in the groin pocket—it will ionize the body—from its very vibrations—to resist colds, congestion and inclinations for disturbance of the mucous membranes of the throat and nasal passages. This is a needed element, then, about the body." (1842-1).

Whether the cold coin will indeed help you to fight sinusitis, I, of course, cannot tell. I have no way of telling whether it will work for everybody. You may get in touch with ARE at 67th and Atlantic Avenue, Box 595, Virginia Beach, VA 23451-0595, US, or call 1-800-333-4499.

Astrology

Reader Michael wrote: "Your books and experiences intrigue me a lot. I admire your courage of leaving a promising career in corporate business and devoting your time to inner mind development and psychic research.

"About three months ago, I called your office to make a personal consultation while I was still located at a condo near you. Unfortunately, you have been in great demand.

"You mentioned in your book that astrology is not your forte. However, could you recommend a reputable astrologer? I would very much like to see one.

"I myself never believed in horoscopes, but after trying to integrate psychology, beliefs of other religions, astrology, numerology, feng shui, palm reading, angels and religious prophecies, I finally saw some correlation. As Pope John Paul II said in the book 'Crossing the Threshold of Hope,' 'Nobody has a monopoly of truth!'"

Of course, you will see some correlations because they are all part of a thread of consciousness received during various parts of human history. Besides, truth is one and cannot contradict itself. As indicated, I'm not into astrology, because I have not found convincing scientific proof of its validity. Maybe I have not looked into the subject deeply enough, so I remain skeptical about its vaunted claims to foretell one's future or destiny. Besides, I believe that our will cannot be ruled by the stars. As Shakespeare said, "It is not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are underlings." Nevertheless, I have great respect for those who practice astrology with dignity, professionalism and mental honesty.

AAA CHOO!
StephB.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

One very good but non-professional astrologer I know is Malou Lamoste, an actuarial accountant by profession. She handles astrology with a rare sensitivity and insight. You may get in touch with her through (0918) 908-8868. She's the only one who has convinced me that astrology is worth taking seriously. Another is Jeannie Javelosa of the Philippine Commission on Arts and Culture.

Psychic readings

Reader Peter Esperanza says the article I wrote about the *akashic* record is the first he has ever read by me. "I don't know if you do psychic readings just like other people who are into the paranormal. I need your help. At 21, I am encountering difficulties in life. I don't know where I should go and what to do. I do not know if I can fulfill my dream of prosperity and happiness.

"I believe in destiny. I believe no matter what I do, I will still be able to fulfill my destiny. I just don't know where to start."

No, I don't do psychic readings as a profession, not even as a hobby; neither do I tell fortunes or read other people's minds. My interest in this field is in trying to understand and look for the rationale behind many strange paranormal phenomena. I am also extremely interested in the tremendous and mostly untapped potentials of the human mind. I want to help people realize and develop these powers and to apply them effectively in their daily lives.

I don't believe in predestination—except if you have freely chosen it to be. In other words, your destiny is also a product of your own free choice and not because of some fixed configuration of the stars when you were born.

Many young people in today's modern society are confused because their minds are bombarded daily with multifarious conflicting values, that they don't know what to believe in anymore.

I don't normally advice people to consult psychics or fortune tellers, for I believe they should learn to access answers from within. But sometimes clairvoyants can help others because of their greater sensitivity to psychic information. If you are really interested, there is a good psychic who comes to my office every Tuesday and Friday to make readings, for a nominal fee of only P500. Her name is Linda Ferido. You may call 892-6806 or 810-7245 for appointment, but I can't guarantee you anything. No psychic is 100 percent accurate all the time. Her batting average, however, is pretty good.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Tai chi master holds classes at Mandaluyong fitness center

TAI Chi is a Chinese system of exercise, characterized by slow, subtle and stylized movements. It is valued for its health and fitness benefits.

Master Limuel C. Bonsai is backed by more than 35 years of experience as a martial artist. He is extensively trained in arts such as Tai Chi, Kung Fu, Karate, Kali and Filipino Stick-Fighting. Likewise, he is the recognized founder of Arnis Rapado, a well-known Filipino stick-fighting style.

Master "Maning," as he is called by students and peers, is also a founder of the World Arnis Association and has held several workshops and training sessions both here and abroad. He has been to Qatar and the US, and trained foreign delegations from Europe and Australia.

He will be conducting Tai Chi classes from 6-7:30 p.m. starting today at Clean Body Clean Mind Health and Fitness Center, 441 Malaya St., Mandaluyong City. Call 578-6986 or e-mail cbcm@edsamail.com.ph.

An effective way to fight obesity

BEFORE, many depended on amphetamine-like activity for their weight-loss effects, but with the associated risk of tolerance and dependence, they were often restricted to short-term use. Other agents, such as the serotonergic drugs, have the potential for central nervous system adverse effects and have been associated with an increased risk of primary pulmonary hypertension. Lipase inhibition provides an entirely new approach to the management of obesity.

A recent study highlighted the role of dietary fat in the development of obesity. "Dietary fat has a higher energy density than other macronutrients, carbohydrates or proteins. In addition, foods high in fat tend to be overeaten and are often highly palatable," says Prof. John Hill of the Center for Human Nutrition of the University in Colorado, Denver.

Fat, mostly in triglycerides, is ingested with every meal. After passing through the stomach, it is broken down by pancreatic lipases and becomes available for absorption in the intestine.

Dietary fat is thus an appropriate target in the management of obesity. Hill cited Xenical (Orlistat) as an effective pharmacotherapeutic agent in the treatment of obesity. He further explained that Xenical partially inhibits gastrointestinal lipase activity, thereby reducing the absorption of dietary fat by one-third.

Deadline for hospital's pre-residency training set

ST. LUKE'S Department of Medicine is currently accepting applicants for its pre-residency training. The qualifying exam is scheduled Aug. 24, 8-10 a.m. at the Medical Center's 2/F conference room.

The requirements are: 2 pieces of 2x2 picture and 2 pieces of 1x1 picture, a certified true copy of transcript of records, letter of recommendation from the dean, two letters of recommendation from medical consultants, class ranking and diploma of medical school.

Deadline for application is on Aug. 24.

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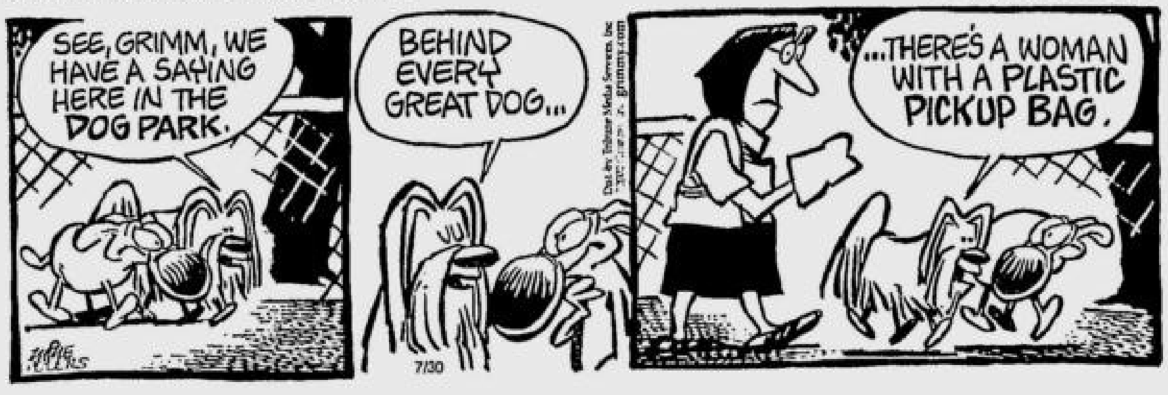
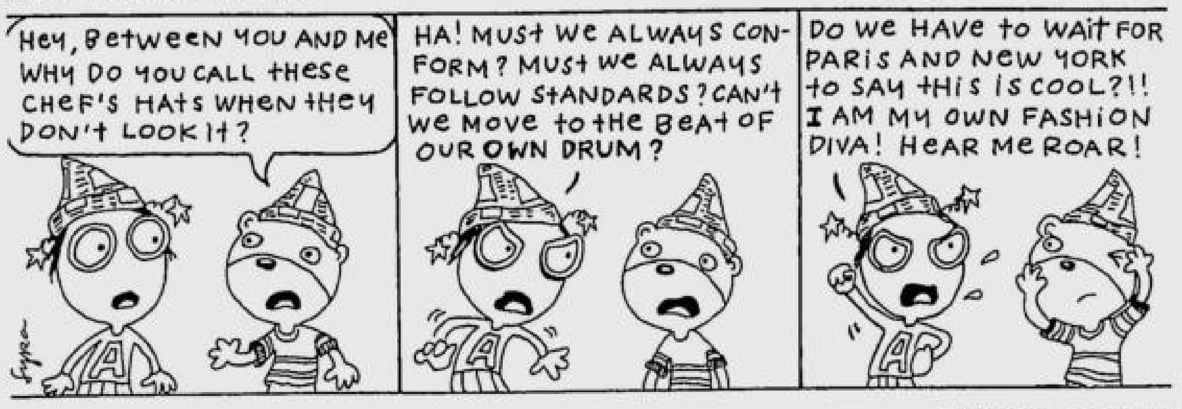
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SEE, GRIMM, WE HAVE A SAYING HERE IN THE DOG PARK.
BEHIND EVERY GREAT DOG...
...THERE'S A WOMAN WITH A PLASTIC PICKUP BAG.
7/30

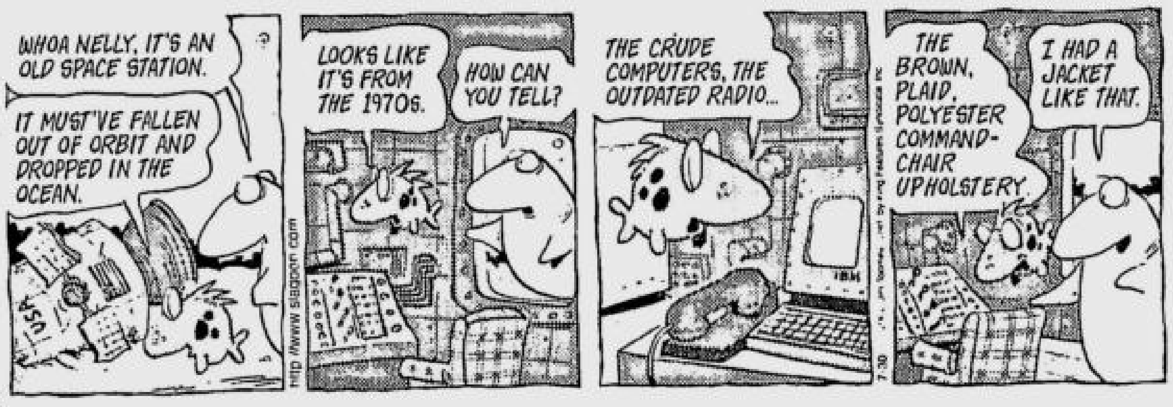
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Between you and me why do you call these chef's hats when they don't look it?
HA! Must we always conform? Must we always follow standards? Can't we move to the beat of our own drum?
Do we have to wait for Paris and New York to say this is cool?!! I am my own fashion diva! Hear me roar!
Lyra

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHOA NELLY, IT'S AN OLD SPACE STATION.
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USA
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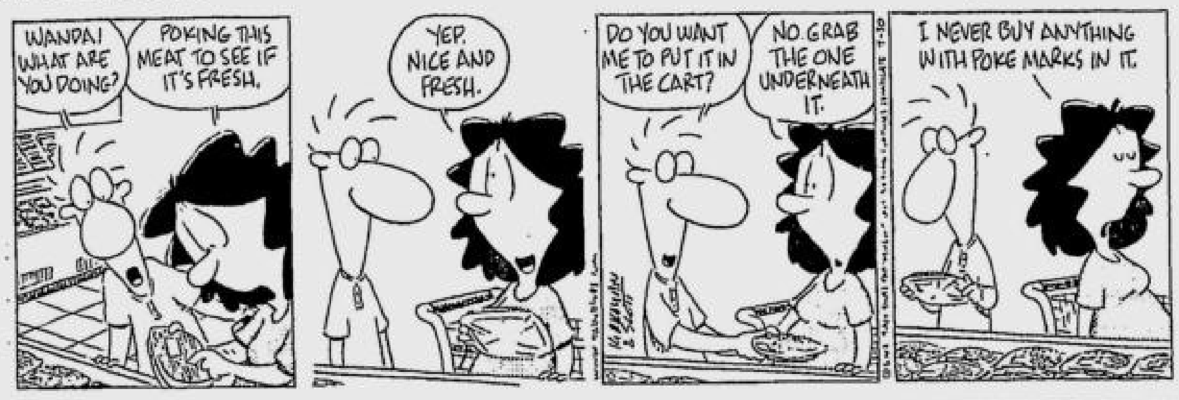
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT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KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Delta Burke, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Paul Anka, Lisa Kudrow

Happy Birthday: You'll come up with some new and innovative ideas that should help you make a mark in your chosen field. You will also have a lowered resistance this year and must protect yourself by getting ample rest. Some problems may exist where love is concerned; don't get jealous or overreact. Your numbers are 12, 18, 23, 31, 35, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let what others do bother you. Channel your energy into your hobbies and personal interests and forget about a deal or friendship gone sour.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will face problems if you don't abide by the rules today. Someone may try to involve you in something that may not be legitimate. Trust only in yourself and your abilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be compassionate in your dealings with people who have experienced difficulties. Your insight into future trends will enable you to make the right choices for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will pick the wrong people to invest with today. You must use more discrimination if you don't want to be taken advantage of. Be conservative with cash.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will want to delve into subjects that can help you further your new interests. Any chance you get to do things with people from foreign countries should be taken advantage of.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should be concerned with your personal papers and your financial affairs. Rid yourself of pending issues that are holding you back. Don't let a dubious person talk you into a joint venture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It will be difficult for you to express your feelings today, so you could experience partnership problems. You will attract someone who also lacks the ability to express his or her feelings, making matters worse.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Unexpected events will cause you to deal with an institution today. Play by the rules to avoid confrontations with authority figures. You will do a lot of moving about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your ability to intuitively understand the people in your life will help you form an ever closer union. You will be attracted to creative groups that can offer you the inspiration you need to develop your talents.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will take a strong position in family matters and that could lead to a disagreement. Your intent will be to improve your personal relationships, but that isn't likely to happen if you are pushy.

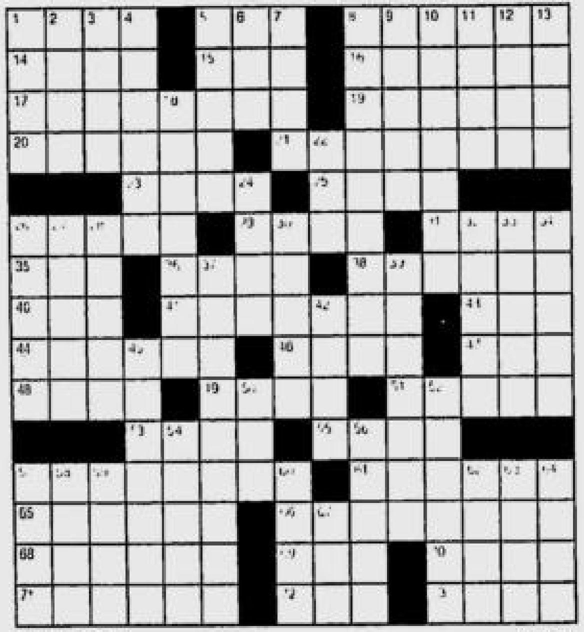
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A day spent with friends will be relaxing, but don't be too quick to tell others your personal secrets. Someone you thought you could trust is gossiping behind your back. Handle this matter maturely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have the discipline to reach your goals. Lend a helping hand to someone who just can't seem to finish what he or she has started.

Birthday Baby: You will be interested in discovering new things, and you are curious as to why those around you do certain things. You will question everything and therefore become quite knowledgeable as you grow up.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Jim Page
New York, NY

7/30/02

ACROSS
1 Bamako's country
5 Fam. member
8 Rind removers
14 Baldwin of "Malice"
15 Owns
16 Going nowhere?
17 Power __
19 Founder of the Shakers in America
20 Reddish horse
21 Scarlet birds
23 Bruins sch.
25 Corn bread
26 Power __
29 Masticate
31 Lasso
35 Hollywood dog's first name?
36 Really involved
38 Circulator
40 Wallach or Whitney
41 Power __
43 Pod beginning
44 Cline and Kensit
46 Proofer's word
47 Run out of gas
48 Beat it!
49 See ya!
51 Power __
53 Tennis situation
55 Saintly
57 Example cited
61 Evening star
65 Pillage
66 Power __
68 Negatively charged atoms
69 Miss Piggy's word
70 Harrow's rival
71 Bono and Liston
72 Wrap up
73 Pause

DOWN
1 Big glob
2 Type of sax
3 Sly glance
4 Bobsled chute
5 Swindler's helper
6 Fleming or Hunter
7 Certain NCO
8 Gut of a baby grand
9 Kofi of the United Nations
10 Power __
11 Perry's penner
12 Contrite one
13 Fr. holy women
18 Correct
22 Do monkey see monkey do
24 Play start
26 Makes ready, briefly
27 Pale purple
28 Singer Baker
30 "The Planets" composer
32 Surpass
33 Grave risk
34 Cat People tribesmen
37 Evil
39 Pioneer
42 Flaming Gorge slate
45 Power __
50 Nelson Mandela's org.
52 Word with bed or crackers
54 Thomas or Aiello
56 Egg-shaped
57 Gershwin and Levin
58 One-billionth: pref.
59 Roulette rotation
60 Salinger girl
62 Top of the head
63 Conceits
64 Tenant's check
67 Dearie

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	I	T	E	■	A	N	T	S	■	S	H	I	R	E
K	N	O	X	■	C	O	O	L	■	M	A	B	E	L
I	S	N	T	■	T	A	R	O	■	E	R	I	N	S
D	E	E	R	J	O	H	N	S	■	A	T	S	F	A
S	T	R	A	I	N	■	■	H	E	R	B	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	G	E	A	R	■	G	Y	R	A	T	E
S	N	U	B	S	■	R	A	N	G	■	E	T	A	L
W	E	R	E	■	C	A	N	E	S	■	A	R	C	S
A	I	D	A	■	O	L	G	A	■	S	K	A	T	E
P	L	U	R	A	L	■	E	R	I	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	F	L	A	W	■	■	R	E	S	I	E	D
S	P	L	A	T	■	H	A	R	E	S	T	Y	L	E
P	E	A	C	E	■	I	R	A	N	■	A	L	D	A
U	T	T	E	R	■	F	I	N	E	■	R	E	E	L
R	E	E	D	S	■	F	A	D	S	■	E	R	R	S

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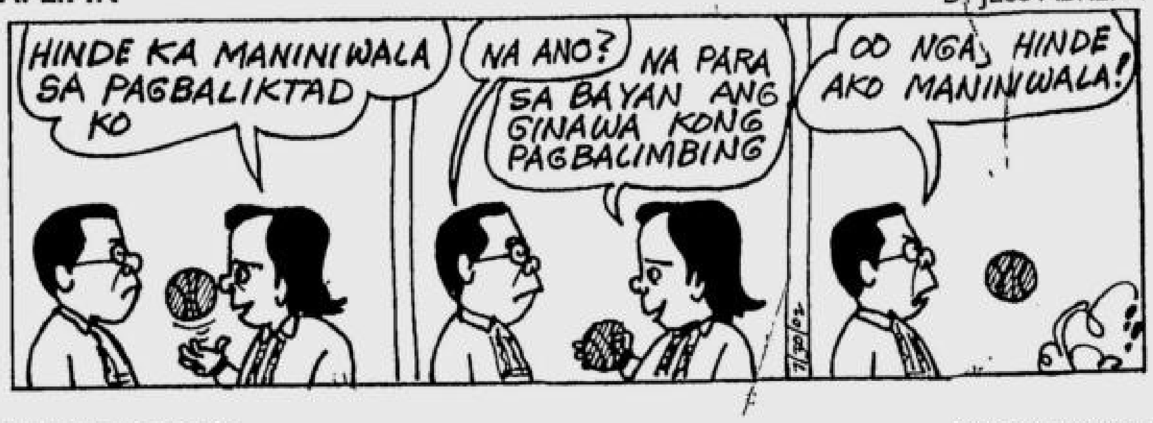
7/30/02

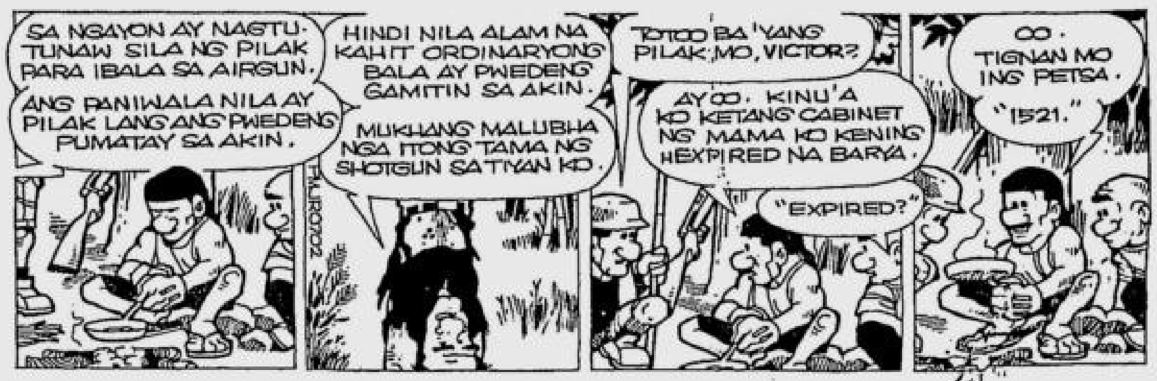
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDE KA MANINIWALA SA PAGBALIKTAD KO
NA ANO?
NA PARA SA BAYAN ANG GINAWA KONG PAGBALIMBING
OO NGA, HINDE AKO MANINIWALA!
7/30/02

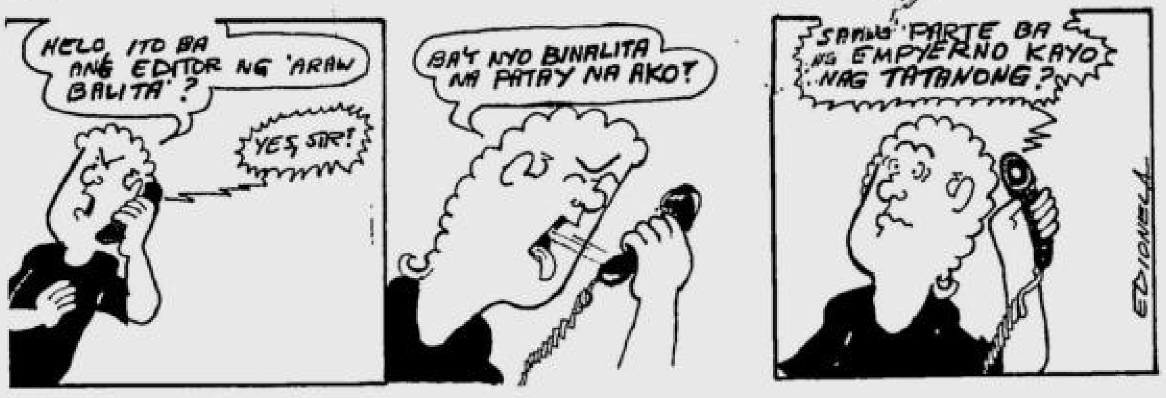
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA NGAYON AY NAGTUTUNAW SILA NG PILAK PARA IBALA SA AIRGUN.
ANG PANIWALA NILA AY PILAK LANG ANG PWEDENG PUMATAY SA AKIN.
HINDI NILA ALAM NA KAHIT ORDINARYONG BALA AY PWEDENG GAMITIN SA AKIN.
MUKHANG MALUBHA NGA ITONG TAMA NG SHOTGUN SA TIYAN KO.
TOTOO BA 'YANG PILAK MO, VICTOR?
AYOO. KINU'A KO KETANG CABINET NG MAMA KO KENING HEXPIRED NA BARYA.
"EXPIRED?"
OO. TIGNAN MO ING PETSA.
"1521."
PMJR0702

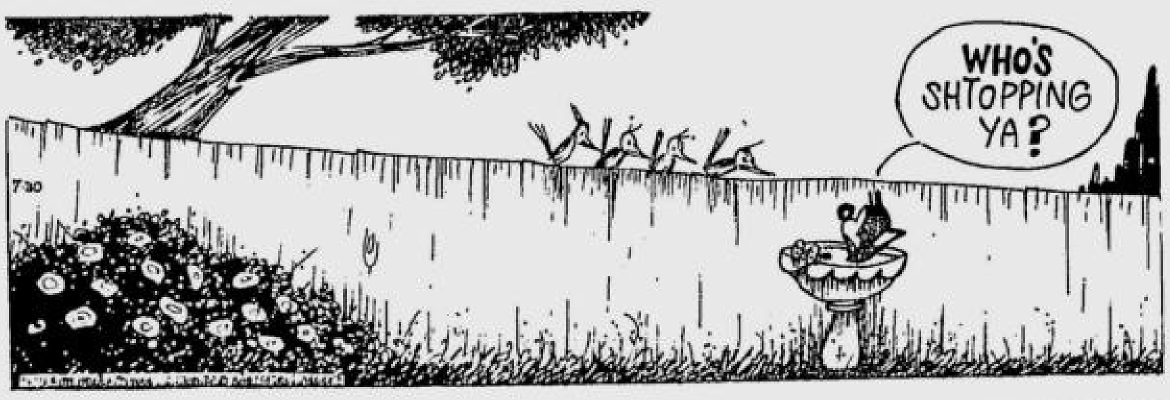
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HELO, ITO BA ANG EDITOR NG 'ARAW BALITA'?
YES, SIR!
BA'T NYO BINALITA NA PATAY NA AKO?
SAANG PARTE BA NG EMPYERNO KAYO NAG TATANONG?
EDIONELA

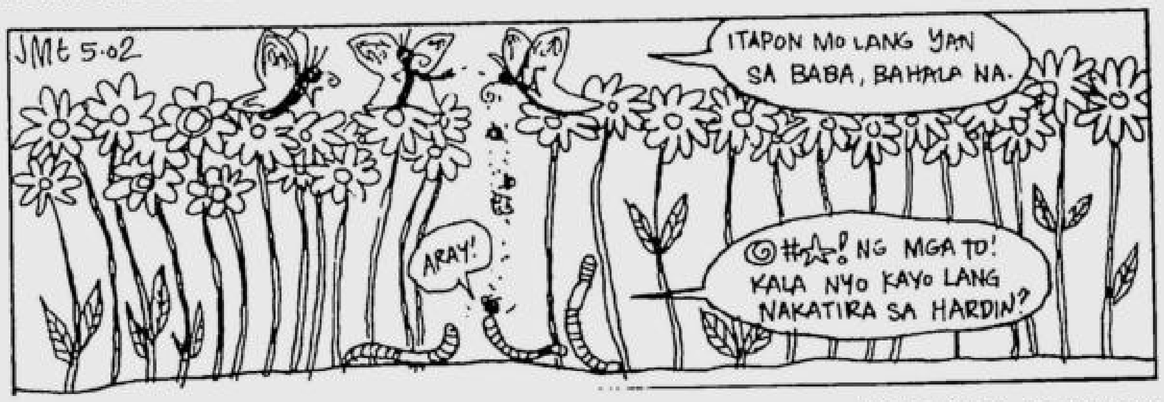
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHO'S SHTOPPING YA?
7-30

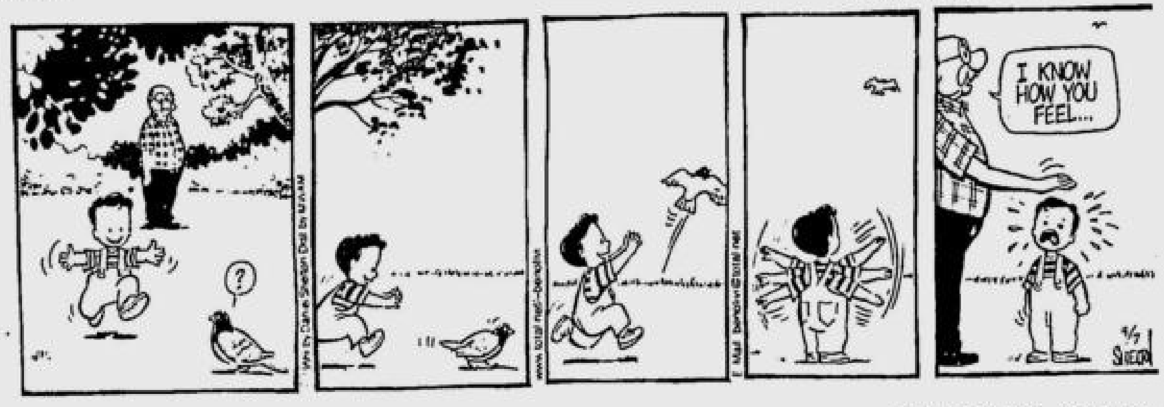
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


JMt 5.02
ITAPON MO LANG YAN SA BABA, BAHALA NA.
ARAY!
@#☆! NG MGA TO! KALA NYO KAYO LANG NAKATIRA SA HARDIN?

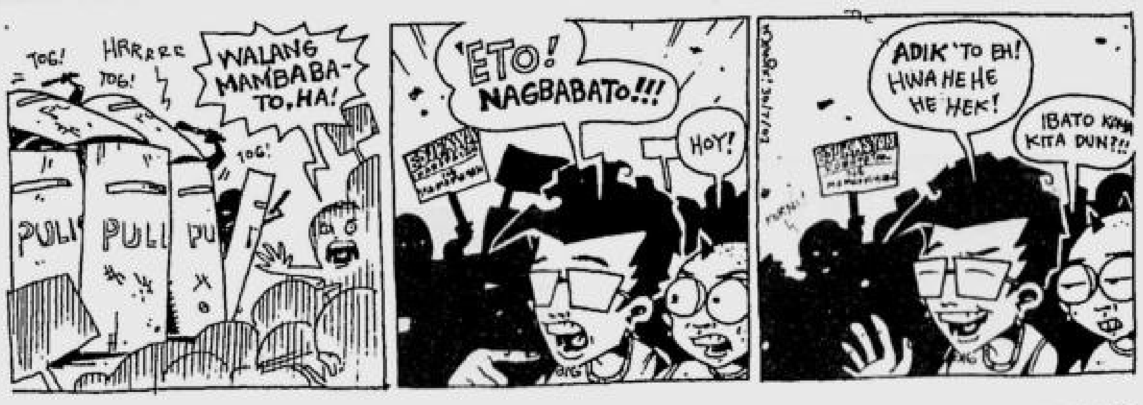
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


?
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...
SHELTON

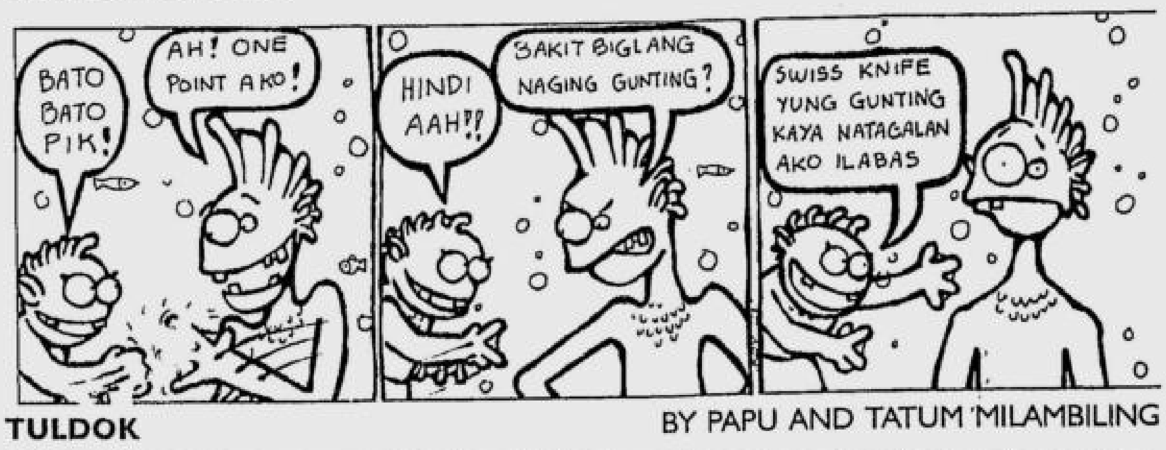
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TOG!
HRRRRR
TOG!
WALANG MAMBABATO, HA!
TOG!
PULI
PULI
PU
'ETO! NAGBABATO!!!
HOY!
ADIK 'TO EH! HWAHEHE HE HEK!
IBATO KAYA KITA DUN?!!

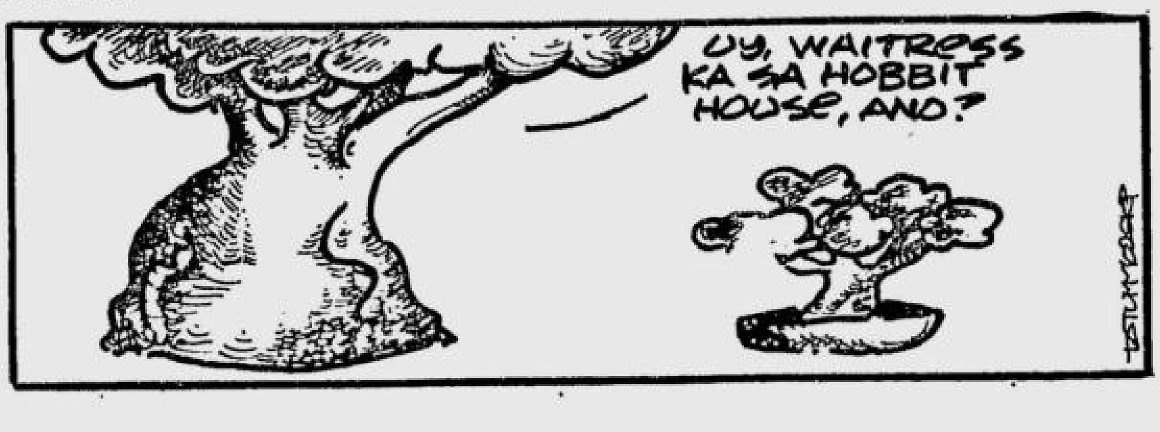
CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO


BATO BATO PIK!
AH! ONE POINT AKO!
HINDI AAH?!
BAKIT BIGLANG NAGING GUNTING?
SWISS KNIFE YUNG GUNTING KAYA NATAGALAN AKO ILABAS

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


UY, WAITRESS KA SA HOBBIT HOUSE, ANO?

Mind-body techniques to control pain

Part II

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

HERE are the mind-body techniques I used to control my anxiety and pain during a minor eyelid surgery two weeks ago. I also use these techniques to help me relax when I cannot go to sleep or when I am tensed and anxious.

Belly breathing

Shallow chest breathing stimulates a "fight or flight" reaction. It makes you tense and releases stress hormones. Deep belly or diaphragmatic breathing, on the other hand, calms down your nervous system. It involves your chest, abdomen and diaphragm (a muscle at the bottom of your ribcage that moves downward and pushes your abdominal organs away from your lungs when you inhale, and moves upward and pushes against the lungs to help them deflate when you exhale).

1. Lie on your back and place one hand on your chest and the other on your abdomen.

2. Expand both chest and abdomen as you inhale through the nose. You may have to make a conscious effort to expand the belly if you are used to breathing only with the chest. Eventually, your abdomen will move on its own.

3. As you exhale (either through the nose or the mouth), feel your chest and abdomen deflating. You should feel your navel or bellybutton being pulled toward your spine.

4. Work toward inhaling and exhaling for five slow counts each. Practice for 1-3 minutes.

'Ujjayi' breathing

One of the most practical explanations I have seen for this type of yogic breathing is from the manual "Yoga Fundamentals: A Fitness Approach" written by Lawrence Biscontini.

1. Sit on a chair or cross-legged on the floor.

2. Place the palm of one hand about 2 inches in front of your mouth.

3. Inhale deeply through the nose, and exhale through the mouth, imagining that your palm is a mirror you are trying to fog. Notice the sound that comes from the back of the throat.

4. Repeat this inhalation-exhalation cycle until you are familiar with the "Darth Vader" sound on exhalation.

5. Close your mouth, inhale and exhale exclusively through the nose. Make the exhalation sound that begins in the back of the throat, still imagining that you are fogging up the mirror. The mouth remains closed.

Note: Once you know how to make the throat sound, practice *ujjayi* (pronounced ooh-ja-yee, which means "victorious breath") breathing together with the belly-expanding technique mentioned above. This helps you to have some kind of a rhythmical sound to concentrate on. However, to help you go to sleep, you may find it more relaxing not to make the throat sound.

For visualization to work, your vision has to be realistic

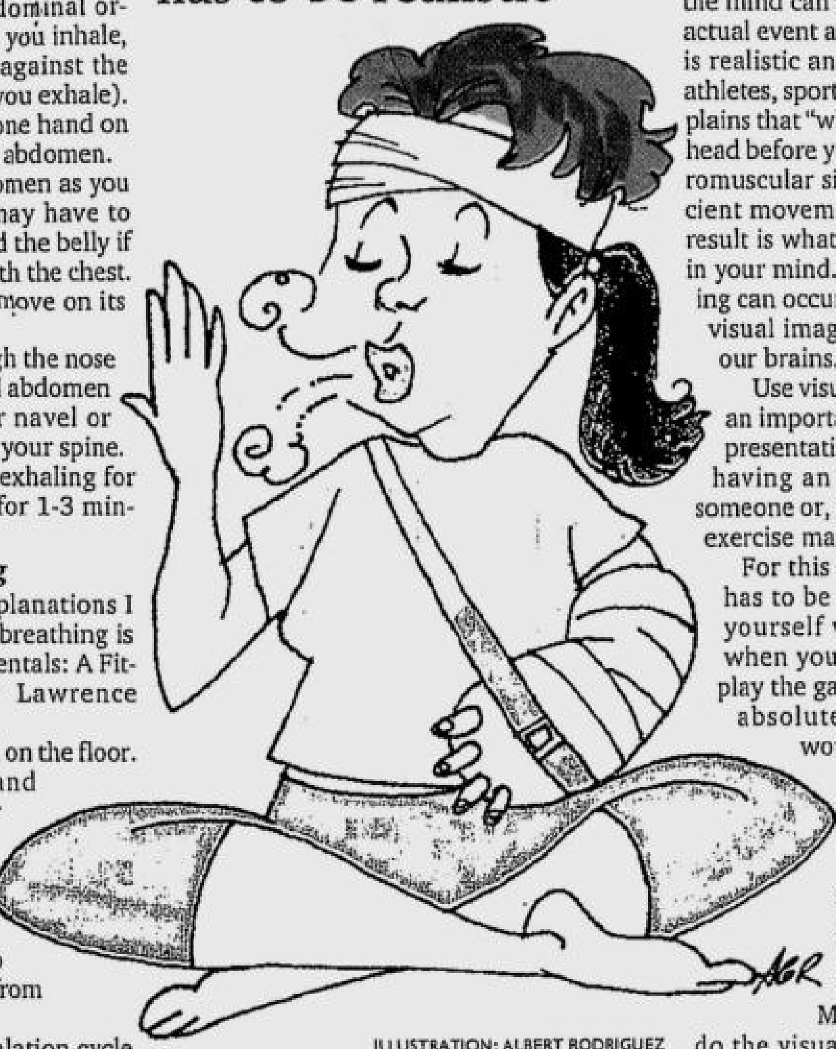


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Progressive relaxation

Lie on your back with your arms open and palms up. Legs can be straight but relaxed, or you can have a small pillow under the knees. You can also rest your lower legs on a step bench, a chair or the wall. The most important thing is that you are comfortable.

Focus on exhalations as you feel your body becoming heavier and heavier. Starting with the lower body, contract your feet, then relax them and feel them sinking into the floor. Alternately contract and relax your entire body as you methodically focus on your legs, hips, lower back, abdomen, chest, shoulders, arms, hands, neck and, finally, all your facial muscles.

Visualization

The concept behind this technique is that the mind can't tell the difference between an actual event and an imagined one if the latter is realistic and vivid enough. Talking about athletes, sports psychologist Diana McNab explains that "when you envision a move in your head before you do it, your body sends a neuromuscular signal that can create more efficient movement during the real game. The result is what athletes call 'playing the game in your mind.'" McNab says that faster learning can occur with mental rehearsal because visual images make the fastest imprint on our brains.

Use visualization to prepare yourself for an important event like making a business presentation, playing a competitive sport, having an important talk with a special someone or, in my case, a minor surgery. The exercise made me relaxed and in control.

For this technique to work, your vision has to be realistic. You cannot visualize yourself winning a golf championship when you are just beginning to learn to play the game. If I imagined myself feeling absolutely no pain, my logical mind would have told me that I was not skilled enough in advanced breathing or relaxation techniques to feel zero pain. So I kept my vision realistic by imagining myself staying calm and relaxed enough to focus on my breathing to keep the pain within controllable limits.

McNab says that the best time to do the visualization technique is after you wake up in the morning or before you sleep at night when your brain waves are slower and you are more open to suggestions.

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable) 6-6:30 a.m. Monday to Friday.

For past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

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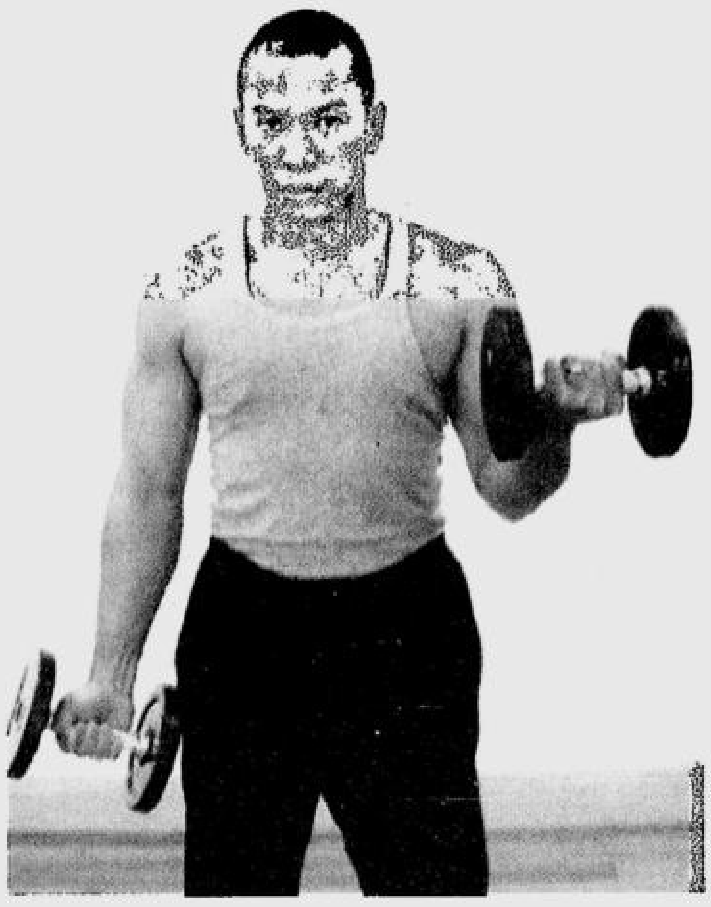
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Alternate biceps curl

STRENGTHENS the front of the upper arms and the biceps.

Equipment:
Dumbbells

Exercise technique:

1. Sit on the edge of a chair or bench with your feet flat on the floor. Keep torso erect with rib cage lifted and abdominal contracted.

2. Hold a dumbbell in each hand, palms facing front, arms straight down and elbows close to the waist.

3. Bend your left arm to curl the dumbbell toward your shoulder, keeping your elbow still. Lower to starting position and repeat with your right arm.

Performance tips:

1. The exercise can be done while standing.

2. Keep your elbows at your side as you curl the arm.

3. Maintain good posture throughout the exercise. Avoid rocking back and forth.

4. Don't bend your wrist. Keep it straight with your forearm.

Repetitions:

Twelve to 15 repetitions. Rest. Do one or two more sets.

Letting go is a woman's . . .

From page C2

your destructive thoughts and feelings into positive energy.

4. Tear up the paper and declare, "I have no problem."

Healing soak or shower

Visualize you are not in your bathroom but in some place exotic or inviting—lake, beach or waterfalls. Imagine the water around you filled with blue healing light. It energizes every cell of your body. Stay in your imaginary healing bath and feel that you are healed. See your problems washed away, leaving you whole, cleansed and complete.

Challenge

You call yourself a woman but maybe you have not fully understood what it means to be one. You have not tapped your powerful intuition, the voice within that tells you only the truth—no matter what the outside world tells you.

Have you given importance to your dreams? What codes lie deep in your psyche that are being communicated to you? Have you found your voice, the one that oftentimes you suppress, fearing that if you dare speak up, you may displease or incur the wrath of somebody else?

Have you listened to your body lately? Are your aches and discomforts a manifestation of unresolved issues in your life? Have you stopped to think that your addictions to drugs, food, alcohol, relationship or work are simply your escape mechanisms designed to keep you out of touch with reality and your hurts?

I challenge you now. If this is your situation, embrace a new kind of medicine by tapping your inner guidance.

If you embrace your body and recognize what your ailments represent, then you can begin to embrace your heart.

This is the ultimate form of release—the liberation of the self.

"Nothing is more exciting than knowing that our bodies and feelings are clear, open pathways to our destinies."

So, as they say, "Go, girl!"

Love and light!

Vitamin E helps slow the aging process

WEEKLY DOSAGE

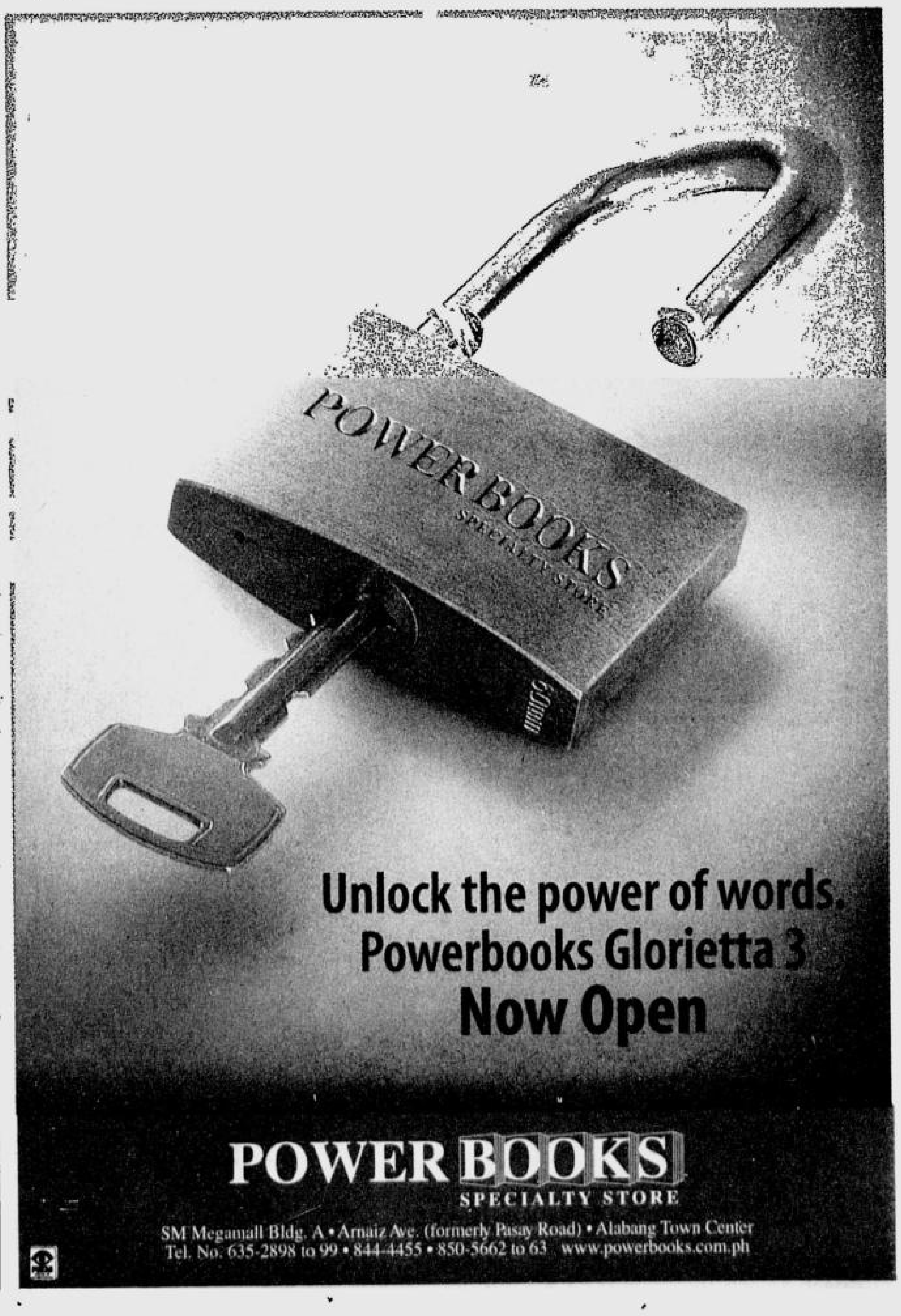
VITAMIN E works wonders to prevent premature aging of the skin. Taking Enat Vitamin E every day preserves the fluidity of the skin membrane by slowing down the evaporation of moisture from the skin's surface. It promotes hair growth, improves wound healing and scar formation, provides defense against bacterial infection, and alleviates acne formation by reducing oil secretion by up to 70 percent. Enat Vitamin E is available at all leading drugstores nationwide in 100 and 400 IU. Call Mega Philippines at 837-8550.

Gift for your heart

ONE way to ensure that your body maintains an adequate amount of Coenzyme Q10 is to take COQ10 supplements. Coenzyme Q-10 is a vitamin-like supplement that offers the same antioxidant properties of Vitamin E. Health Express, a chain of health food stores, offers a variety of COQ10 supplements to help your heart stay healthy: Coenzyme Q10, Healthy Heart and Omega-3 Fish Oil Concentrate. Health Express branches are located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place (Novaliches and Ermita), Robinsons Supermarket (Bacolod) and Robinsons Town Mall (Los Baños); Tutuban Center Mall; Makati Supermart, Alabang Town Center and Festival Supermall; SM City Iloilo and Glorietta 3, Makati. Call 892-7978, 840-1855 or 892-9364.

No-damage hair straightening

THE ONLY hair product that delivers 100-percent straight hair that's permanent, silky and smooth without damaging the hair is now available in the local market. Narcisse TG10 banishes frizzy, coarse, kinky, curly and wavy hair with its formulation of blended TG (thioglycolate) and DTDG (dithio diglycholic) acid and systain (amino acid). Salon owners and practitioners may book for free demonstrations on the proper application of Narcisse TG10. Call 913-4370/3953.



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Lady Godiva on your skin

By Anne A. Jambora

THE PURSUIT of the elusive fountain of youth is driven by the human frailty called vanity, that universal compulsion to look good and feel good. Unfortunately, the layer that holds humans in one piece, literally, is the very thing that betrays them—the skin. Sure, aging is irreversible, and with today's lifestyle avoiding everyday stress is impossible. That doesn't mean, however, that all is lost for those who seek that youthful verve in the name of smooth and supple skin.

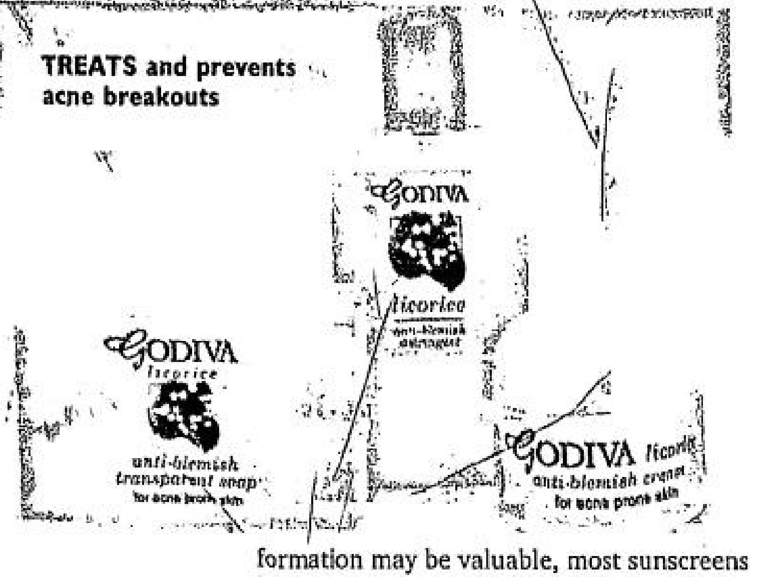
Fred C. Reyes, the brains behind the skin-care company Godiva Inc., believes that with several products in the market, the battle for healthy skin is best faced with the right information. A chemist, Fred unravels the scientific truths behind some beliefs, and hopes that consumers will be wary of being bamboozled into investing on empty promises and false hopes wrapped in dainty, often expensive, packaging.

Burn, baby, burn

Sunlight causes 90 percent of skin damage. When choosing a sunblock, consumers are led to believe that the higher the SPF, the better. SPF (sun protection factor) is simply there to help determine how long a person can stay under the sun. While that information may be valuable, most sunscreens in the market primarily block the UVB rays, responsible for burning the skin, and to a certain degree, the UVA rays, which cause aging. These chemical sunscreens are also photo-reactive—exposure to sunlight destroys the sunblock. Worse, they don't block the UVC, the cancer-causing rays.

GODIVA
licorice
skin whitening lotion
licorice
skin whitening astringent
licorice
whitening
licorice
transparent whitening soap
100% Fragrance Free
licorice
skin whitening toner
licorice
skin whitening cream

WHO'S THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL? Whitening line claims results in seven days.



TREATS and prevents acne breakouts

> It may be a local brand but Godiva uses quality ingredients and sells at reasonable prices

Godiva's Green Tea Sunblock Cream blocks all three rays with Z-Block, a fine form of zinc oxide. Z-Block doesn't break down under the sun, giving the user maximum protection throughout the day. Another ingredient is EGCG, an antioxidant derived from green tea extract that's 100 times more effective than Vitamin C and 25 times more than Vitamin E.

Like water for skin

If you think moisturizers are the answer to dry skin, think again. They merely help hold water in the skin surface for a while. To understand better, first know the root causes of dry skin: insufficient amount of the skin's natural oil, sebum and over-accumulation of dead skin cells due to slow skin regenerative capabilities.

Like the body's metabolism, the skin's ability to revitalize dead skin cells slows down with age. Godiva's Fruit Acid Revitalizing Cream directly addresses the root cause by coaxing the skin into speeding up production of sebum through its time-release system that boosts the efficiency of alpha hydroxy acid (AHA) by more than four times. AHA melts that "glue" that binds dead cells, and stimulates production of collagen and elastin fibers, essential in treating fine lines, wrinkles, freckles and age spots.

Licorice exposed

People wanting a fairer complexion are familiar with licorice. But what they don't know is how pure the licorice extract is in certain products. The purer it is, the more effective it becomes.

Godiva's skin-whitening line contains the most purified form, at 40 percent, for its glabridin content. Glabridin is what makes the skin fairer, not the licorice. Licorice is simply a plant from which many types of extracts can be produced.

In its purest form, glabridin is almost 100 times more effective than any known whiteners, including Vitamin C, hydroquinone, kojic acid and melawhite. For this reason, Godiva boldly claims results in just seven days.

'Scabest'

Most anti-acne formulations contain benzyl peroxide, which only acts as antibacterial and exfoliant. But treating acne is not simple, as anyone who has had it must know. The key word is "Scabest"—acronym for skin cells, allergies, bacteria, enzymes, sebum and testosterone (yes, women *have* testosterone).

Licochalcone, another licorice extract present in Godiva's anti-blemish line, blocks excessive testosterone that causes overbuild-up of sebum, acts as antioxidant to prevent allergic reaction that leads to swelling and as an antibacterial to prevent infection. It also has fruit acids as exfoliant.

Godiva also addresses traumatized skin resulting from stress-triggered biophysical changes with its Squalane Cool Anti-Stress Lotion. It contains squalane and allantoin that aid the healing process. In fact, it is safe for pregnant women and helps prevent stretch marks by increasing the skin's elasticity when the tummy begins to grow bigger.

Left and right brains

Godiva doesn't use endorsers, says Carleen Reyes, executive assistant and Fred's wife. "Our hero is the product," she says. The two work closely as a team—he the right brain, she the left. Fred, the company president, takes care of the lab, so to speak, and she, the aesthetics.

Godiva may be a local brand, but it uses the highest quality and expensive ingredients in its formulations, such as licorice extracts and squalane, and sells at reasonable prices. "We directly import our ingredients so we don't go through middle-men. And we don't spend much on marketing either," Carleen says.

Their highly informative website, www.godivaskincare.com, not yet a year old, is getting 70 percent of its sales from foreigners—from the United States to Kenya to the Middle East. Thirty percent comes from Filipinos living abroad.

Once, says Fred, a black man wanted to lighten his lip color. Talk about personal service, Fred himself formulated a lip balm just for the guy. Queries are also answered within 24 hours.

Indeed, Godiva is taking the skin-care industry seriously and, according to Fred, aims to become a global brand someday. With the overwhelming response on its website, expect more to come.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

GODIVA
fruit acid
revitalizing complex

REJUVENATES the skin